Shojo Beat Manga

BABY & Me

Story & Art by

Marimo Ragawa

13

Shojo Beat

BABY & Me

Vol. 13

Story & Art by **Marimo Ragawa**

BABY & ME, Vol. 13
The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

Story & Art by
MARIMO RAGAWA

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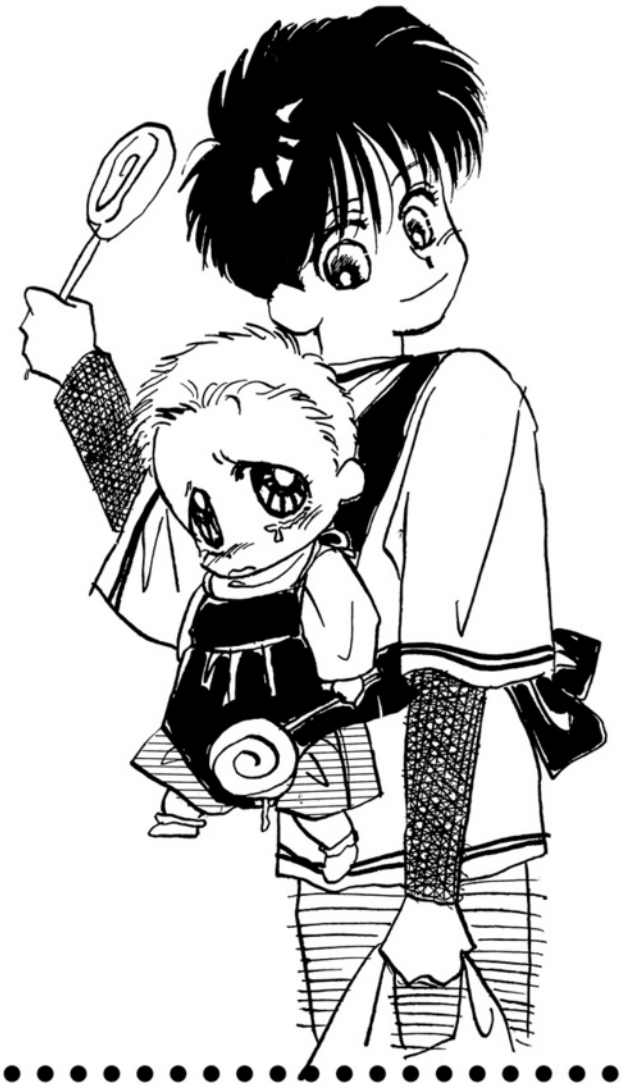

BABY & ME

Creator: Marimo Ragawa

SBM Title: *Baby & Me*

Date of Birth: September 21

Blood Type: B

Major Works: *Time Limit*, *Baby & Me*, *N.Y. N.Y.*, and *Shanimuni-Go* (Desperately—Go)

Marimo Ragawa first started submitting manga to a comic magazine when she was 12 years old. She kept up her submissions for four years, but to no avail. She decided to submit her work to the magazine *Hana to Yume*, where she received Top Prize in the Monthly Manga Contest as well as an honorable mention (Kasaku) in the magazine's Big Challenge contest. Her first manga was titled *Time Limit*. *Baby & Me* was honored with a Shogakukan Manga Award in 1995 and was spun off into an anime.

Ragawa's work showcases some very cute and expressive line work along with an incredible ability to depict complex emotions and relationships. Some of her other works include *N.Y. N.Y.* and the tennis manga *Shanimuni-Go*.

Ragawa has two brothers and two sisters.

BABY & ME

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BABY & Me
Chapter 69

HEY...
LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
HUH?
Album
DIARY
MOM AND DAD MET IN JULY, 13 YEARS AGO.
DAD!
YEAH?
IS THIS YOUR MOM AND DAD?
CHAK
DAD
BUT I NEVER KNEW HOW THEY MET.
IS IT?
IS IT?
IS IT?

I'D FORGOT-TEN ALL ABOUT THIS ALBUM.
IN THE CLOSET, WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR THE BEDDING DRYER.
WOW.
WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT?
Album

OH...

WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?
GRANDMA AND GRANDPA ...

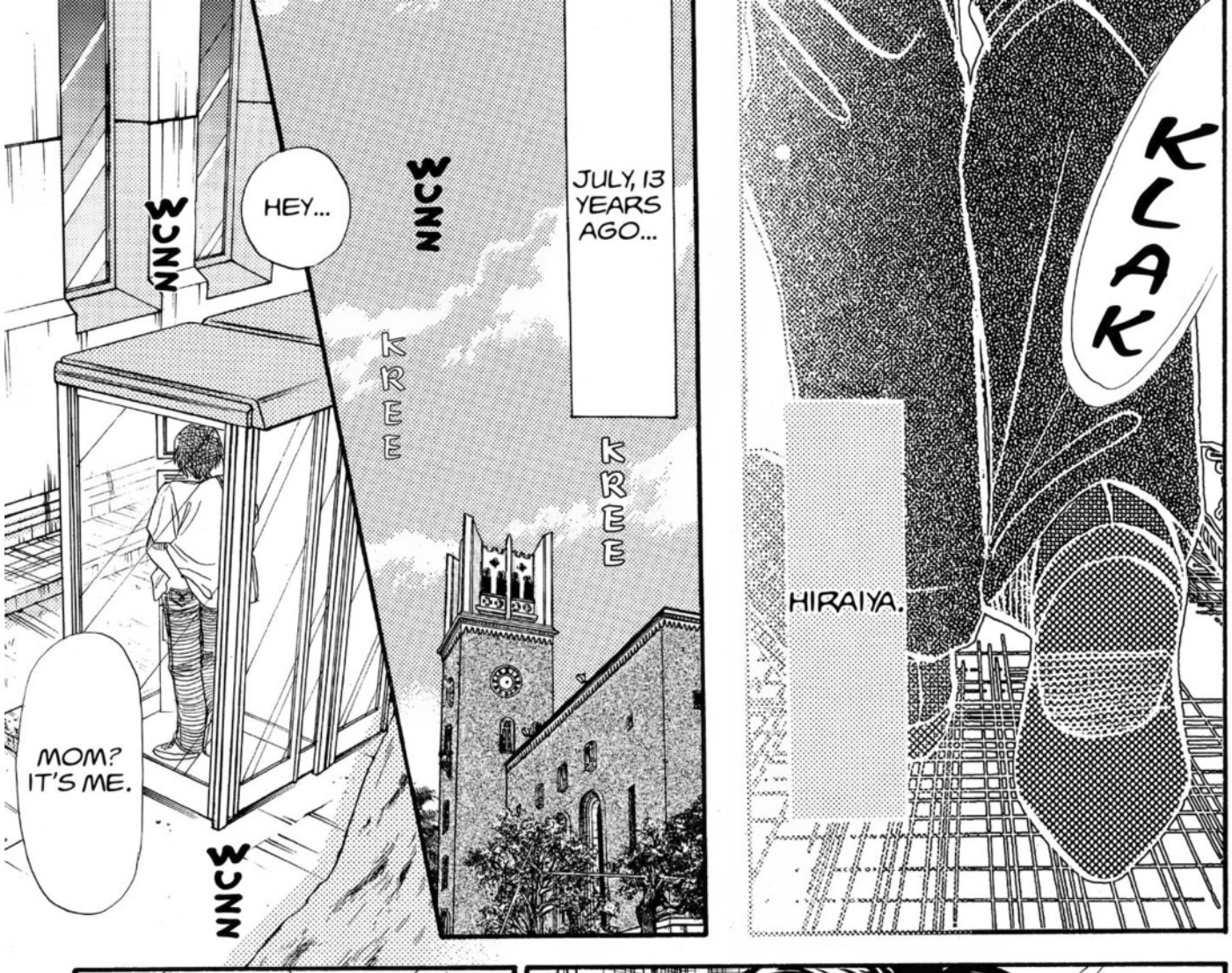
...
MINORU
Album

IT'S A PICTURE OF MY PARENTS WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG.
IT'S IN BAD SHAPE...BUT IT'S THE ONLY PICTURE I HAVE OF THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER.

LIKE?

WELL ...
YOUR GRAND-PARENTS WERE...

MY PARENTS DIED 13 YEARS AGO.
THIS CITY'S CHANGED A LOT SINCE THEN.
WUNN
I'M RUNNING LATE.
...TAKUYA AND MINORU FOUND A PHOTO ALBUM IN THE CLOSET.
IT BROUGHT BACK A LOT OF OLD MEMORIES.
KLAK-KLAK
LAST NIGHT...
WUNN
WUNN
...VERY...
...HARD-WORKING.
PIRUCO
PIRUCO
MARIMO
OH YEAH...
HMM...
WUNN
KLAK
KLAK
SHE WAS WORKING PART-TIME AT A LUNCHEONETTE. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT PLACE?
...THAT I MET YUKAKO.
WUNN
KLAK
KLAK
IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME...
BEE-BO
BEE-BO
BEE-BO
(PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNAL)


KLAK
HIRAIYA.
JULY, 13 YEARS AGO...
KREE
KREE
WUNN
WUNN
HEY...
MOM? IT'S ME.
WUNN

I'M NO GOOD AT THIS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO DAD...
...BUT I'M EVEN **WORSE** AT TALKING TO MOM.
WHEW
KLIK

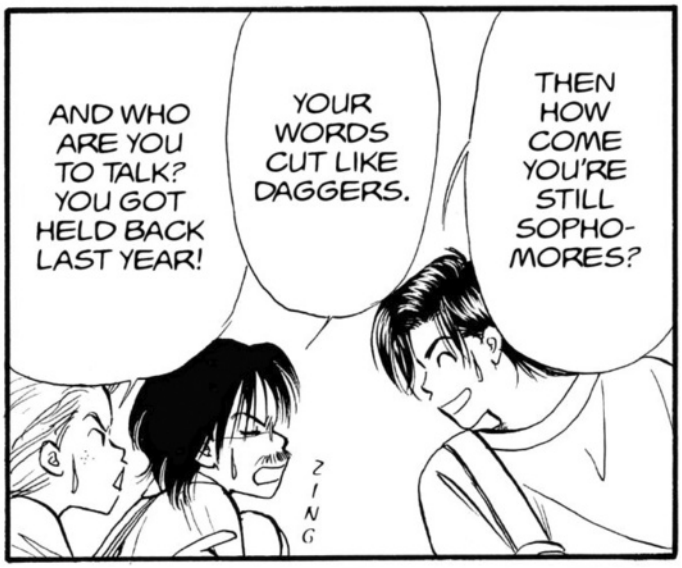
IS DAD STILL MAD AT ME THIS MORNING?
TELL HIM I'LL WORK ON MY REPORT AT A FRIEND'S PLACE, OKAY?
REALLY? THEN I'D BETTER NOT COME HOME YET.

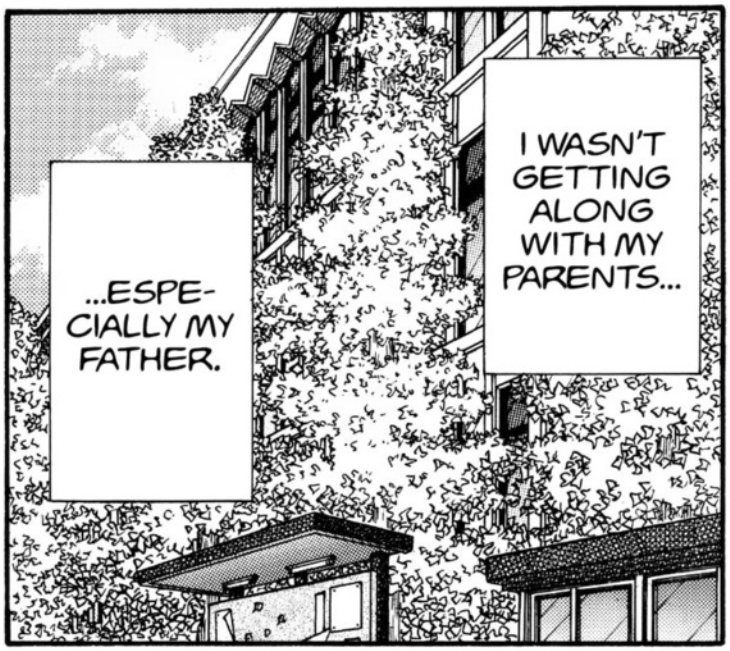
HEY!
SWUP
ENOKI! JUST THE MAN I WAS LOOKING FOR!

HEY, IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO YOUR ELDERS?
SORRY.
I'M BUSY TONIGHT.
WE'RE TWO YEARS OLDER THAN YOU, REMEMBER?

TONS OF 'EM!
THERE'S GONNA BE RICH COLLEGE GIRLS!
GOT 3,000 YEN? WE'RE GOING OUT TO-NIGHT!

YOU'RE KILLING US!
AGH!
ZING
ZING
I TOOK A YEAR OFF TO STUDY IN AMERICA.
I WASN'T GOOFING OFF LIKE YOU GUYS!


AND WHO ARE YOU TO TALK? YOU GOT HELD BACK LAST YEAR!
YOUR WORDS CUT LIKE DAGGERS.
THEN HOW COME YOU'RE STILL SOPHO-MORES?
ZING


I WASN'T GETTING ALONG WITH MY PARENTS...
...ESPE-CIALLY MY FATHER.

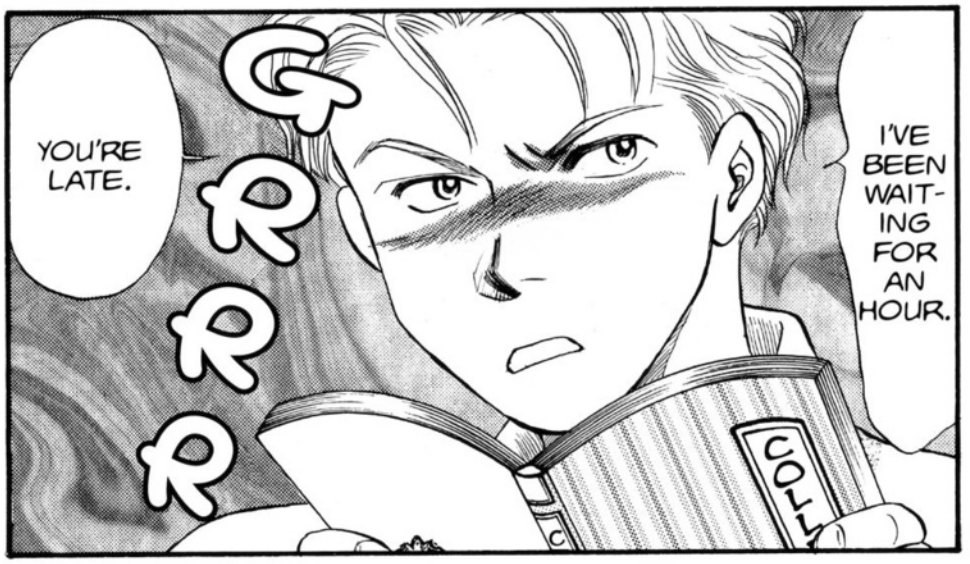
I WAS HARUMI ENOKI, AGE 21.
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THESE GUYS.
GASP!
OXYGEN!

Author's Note Part 1

Hi, Marimo Ragawa here. ***Baby & Me*** Volume 13 is all about Mom and Dad. That's why Takuya and Minoru aren't on the cover. I've been thinking a lot about these stories, so I'm glad I finally got to draw them. It always feels great to finish a story I've wanted to draw.

I think of Yuki Asahi as a quiet character. Even his face is kind of nondescript. But he was surprisingly popular with older women. Harumi was popular with students, and Yuki with working women and housewives.

I don't know what Tokyo looked like ten years ago, so I had to guess. But people told me, "You really captured the atmosphere." That's when I realized I was about ten years behind the times. Ha ha ha...



WELL, HIYOSHI'S MORE CONVENIENT FOR YOU!
THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU, HUH?
IT'S CLOSER TO SHINJUKU, AND THERE ARE TONS OF STUDENTS THERE.
NO, WASEDA'S BETTER.
Real Estate
SKE
WHAT SCHOOL SHOULD I GO TO?
WHAT ABOUT HIYOSHI?
IT'S ON THE TOYOKO LINE.
DARN IT!
HIYOSHI IT IS.
SCISSORS!
...
ROCK, PAPER...
WHAT'S AROUND HERE?
THEN LET'S GO GRAB SOMETHING.
YOU CAN STAY OVER, BUT WE CAN'T COOK ANYTHING TONIGHT.

HMM ...
HOW 'BOUT HIRAIYA?
HAMBURGER STEAK ¥400
BARBECUE ¥450
Nori Seaweed ¥300
Salmon ¥300
Cutlet ¥350
Hamburger Steak ¥400
Barbecue ¥450
Seaweed & Seasoned Cod Roe ¥400
Fried Chicken ¥400
Today's Special ¥400
Makunouchi
EXCUSE ME!
ONE SEA-WEED AND COD ROE!
I'LL HAVE THE FRIED CHICKEN, PLEASE.
!!
HIRAIYA
OKAY, OKAY.
ONE SEA-WEED AND COD ROE AND ONE FRIED CHICKEN, RIGHT?
HEY, WHERE'S THE OLDER LADY? DID SHE QUIT?
...
NO.
SHE JUST TOOK THE DAY OFF.
YOU NEW HERE?
YES.
SHE'S CUTE ...

IN THOSE DAYS, I WAS CASUAL ABOUT WOMEN.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
Doesn't know the ropes
HIRAIYA
TO BE HONEST ...
I JUST THOUGHT SHE WAS ATTRACTIVE. IT WASN'T LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT OR ANYTHING.
...AT THE TIME, I WASN'T LOOKING FOR A RE-LATIONSHIP.

WHAT?
WANNA GO OUT SOMETIME?
HIRAIYA

YUKAKO HAYAKAWA.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

SURE!
THIS KIND?
CAN I HAVE TWO MISO SOUPS?

HOW 'BOUT IT? WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
I'M A STU-DENT.
MY NAME'S HARUMI ENOKI. I'M 21.
...

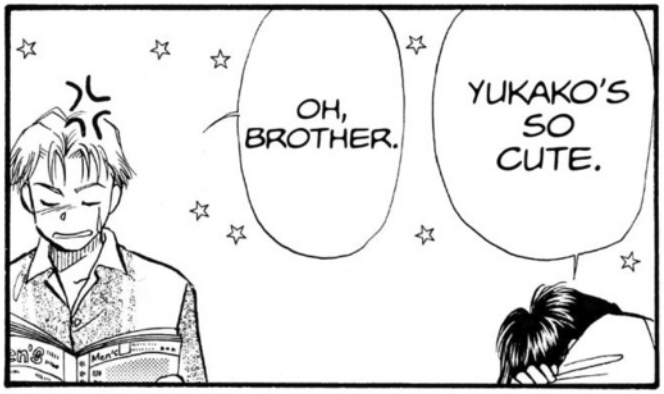
DON'T EMBAR-RASS ME LIKE THAT.
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER.
SHOT DOWN IN FLAMES.
I'D NEVER BEEN RE-JECTED LIKE THAT BEFORE.
HIRAIYA

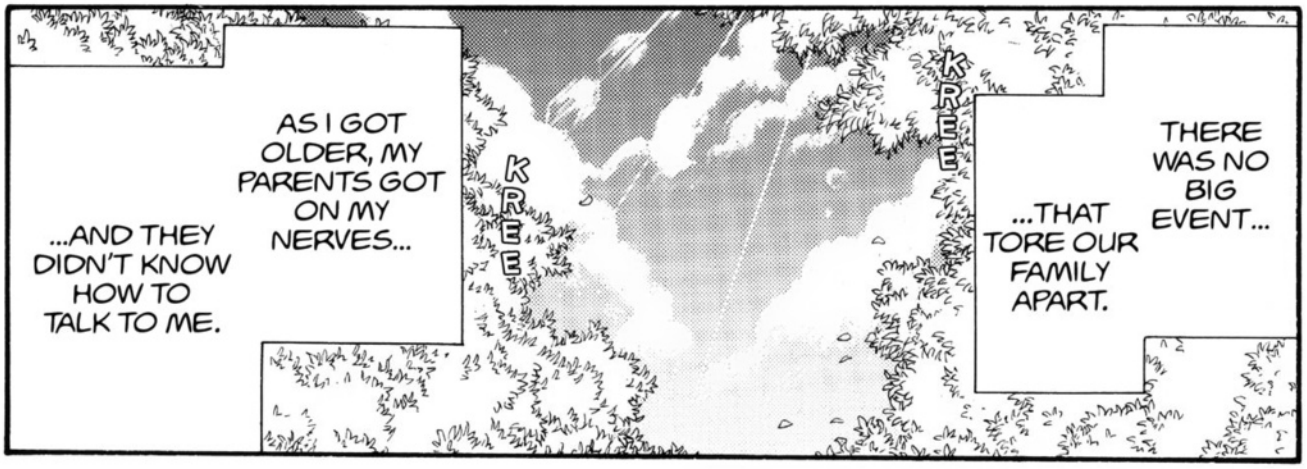
...HOOK UP!
I DON'T...
HIRAIYA

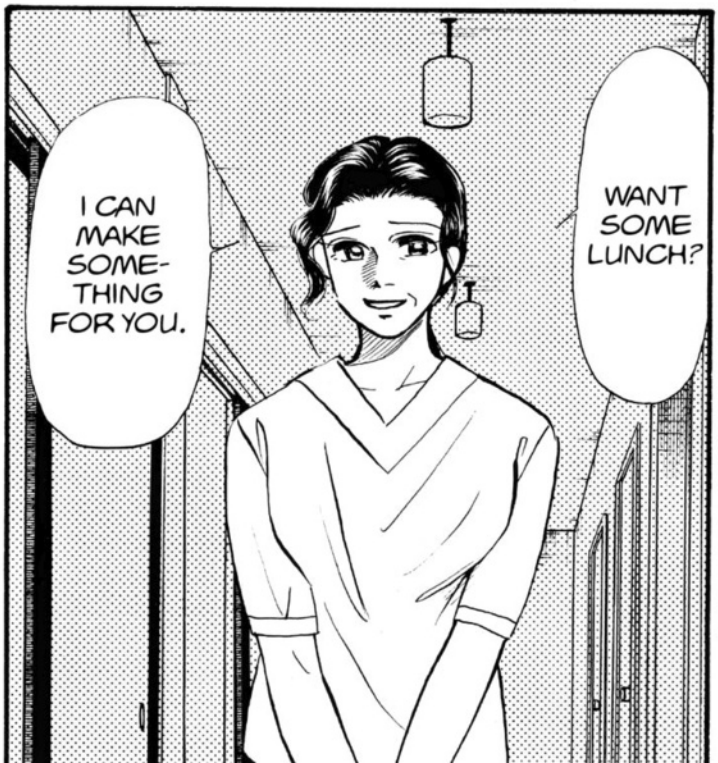
THEN DO IT! YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE HOME ON BAD TERMS!
I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM.
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM YET.
HIRAIYA
DID YOUR DAD GIVE YOU PER-MISSION TO MOVE OUT?
HARUMI!?

THAT BAD, HUH?
HFF...

ALL RIGHT.
I'LL TRY TO TALK TO HIM BEFORE SUMMER VACATION.
AREN'T YOU GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR PARENTS?
WHAT? NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.


YUKAKO'S SO CUTE.
OH, BROTHER.


THERE WAS NO BIG EVENT...
...THAT TORE OUR FAMILY APART.
AS I GOT OLDER, MY PARENTS GOT ON MY NERVES...
...AND THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO ME.
KREEE
KREEE

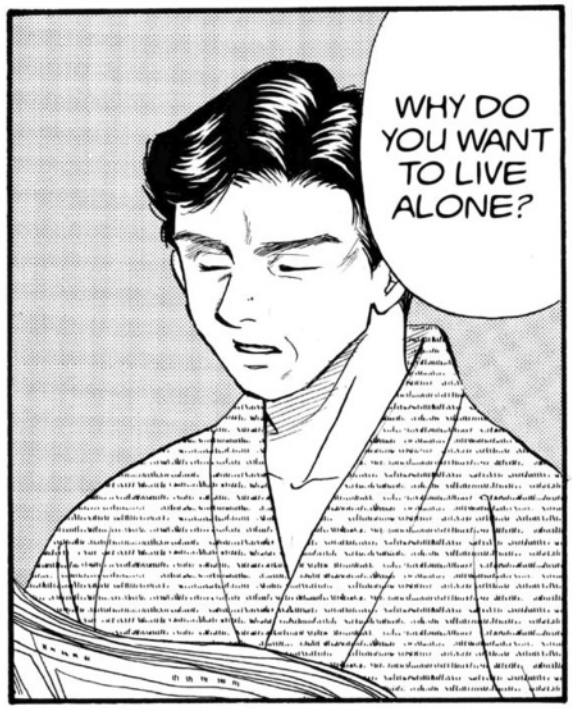

WANT SOME LUNCH?
I CAN MAKE SOME-THING FOR YOU.

HI, HARUMI.
YOU'RE HOME EARLY.

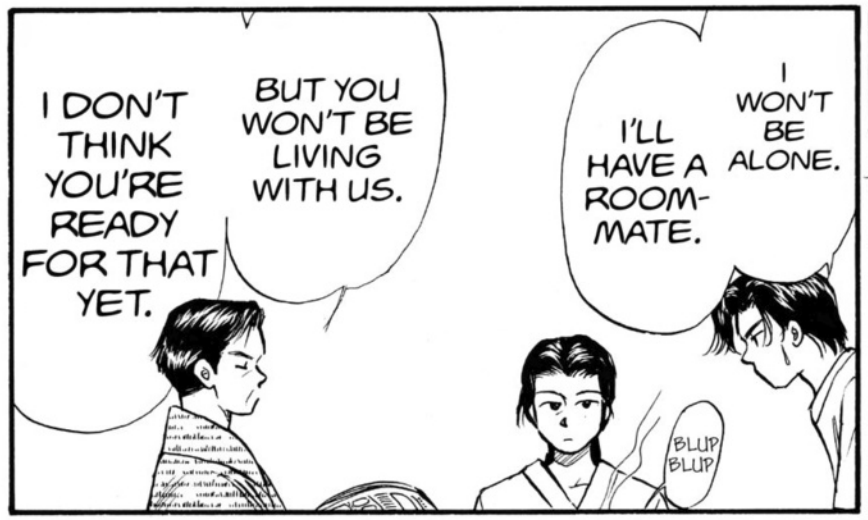
I KNEW SHE WAS LONELY, BUT WHAT COULD I DO ABOUT IT?

...
DON'T CALL ME UNTIL DINNER.
I'M GONNA TAKE A NAP.
THERE WAS SOMETHING DEPRES-SING ABOUT MY MOTHER.
TMP
TMP
TMP

I HAD CLASSES THIS MORNING.
I ATE WITH MY FRIENDS.


WHY DO YOU WANT TO LIVE ALONE?

...SO FULL OF LIFE.
SHE USED TO BE...


I DON'T THINK YOU'RE READY FOR THAT YET.
BUT YOU WON'T BE LIVING WITH US.
I'LL HAVE A ROOM-MATE.
I WON'T BE ALONE.
BLUP BLUP

...

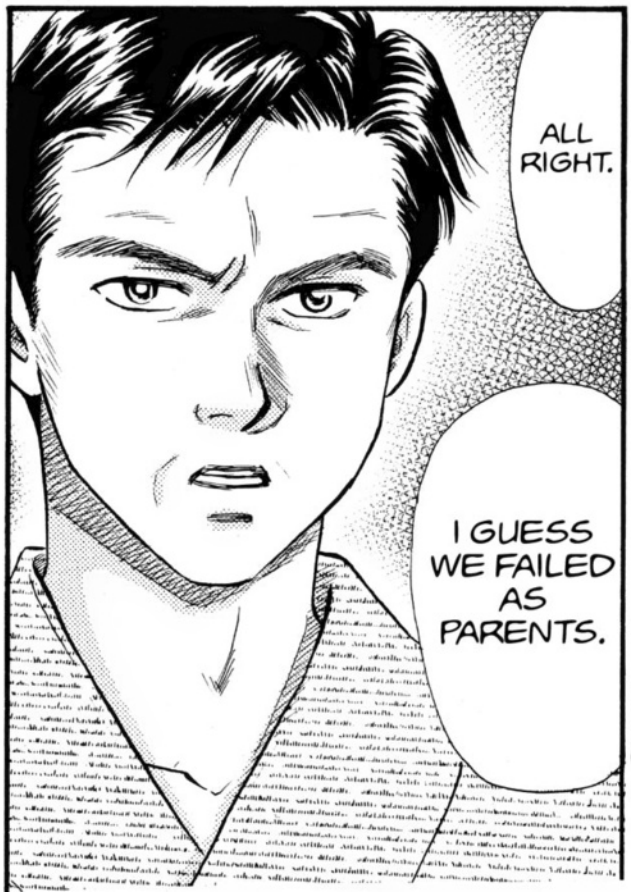
WHAT?
BOOM

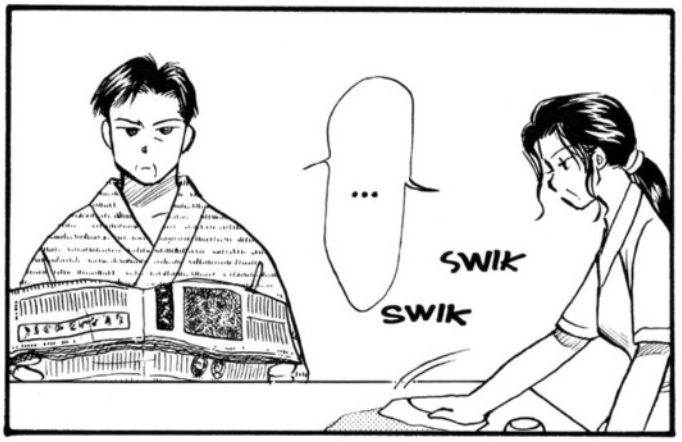
...AND SEEING GIRLS.
YOU'LL START CUTTING CLASSES ...

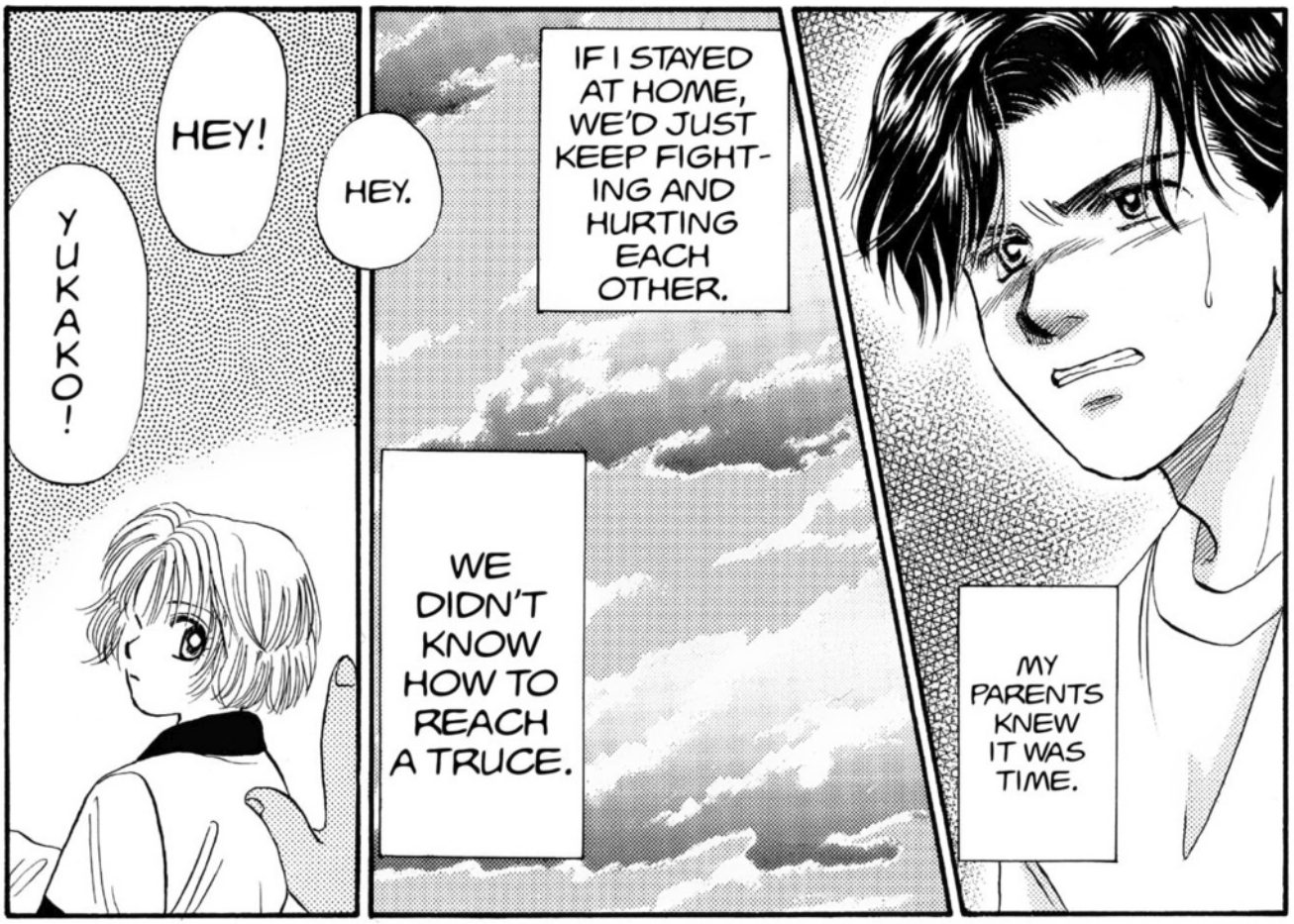
READY?
YOU'LL SPEND TOO MUCH TIME GOOF-ING OFF WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

I'M LEAV-ING.
ALL RIGHT?
ﾄﾎﾎ...

WAK
I CAN'T STAND LIVING WITH YOU ANYMORE!
DON'T YOU GET IT?


ALL RIGHT.
I GUESS WE FAILED AS PARENTS.


...
SWIK
SWIK



How old is she?

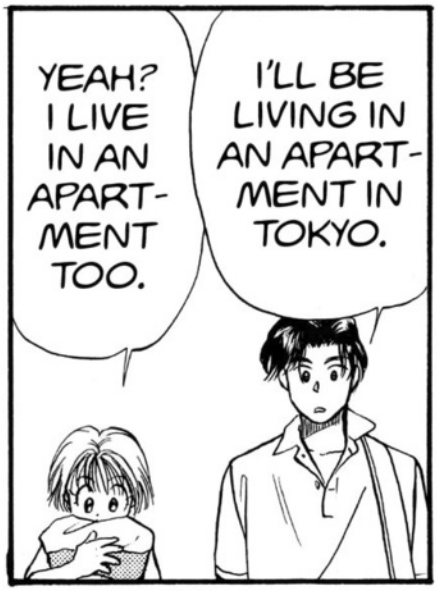
DON'T YOU LIKE PEOPLE?
WHY NOT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I DON'T WANT A RELATIONSHIP.

I'M NOT TOUCHING YOU. SEE?
HEY, TAKE IT EASY, OKAY?
GRR...

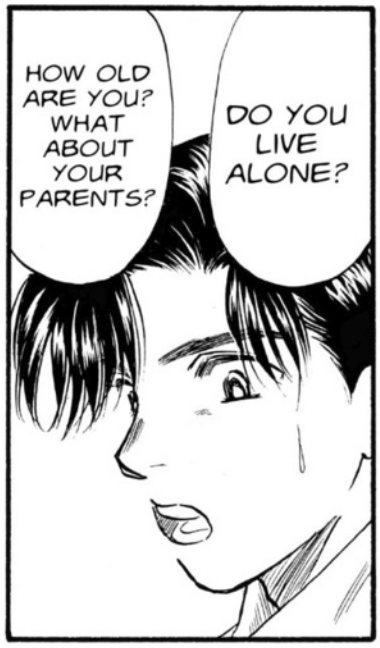
WHAT? WHY?
WELL, I'LL BE LEAVING KUMANOI CITY AT THE END OF AUGUST.
SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RUNNING INTO ME ANYMORE.

SUNEVI
...
REALLY?


YEAH? I LIVE IN AN APARTMENT TOO.
I'LL BE LIVING IN AN APARTMENT IN TOKYO.

HUH?
GET IT?
SINCE I'M GOING AWAY, IT'S SAFE TO TALK TO ME, RIGHT?

SHIRO
OH!!


HOW OLD ARE YOU? WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?
DO YOU LIVE ALONE?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
REALLY?

...PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

I'M 18.
MY PARENTS...

YOU'RE WEIRD.

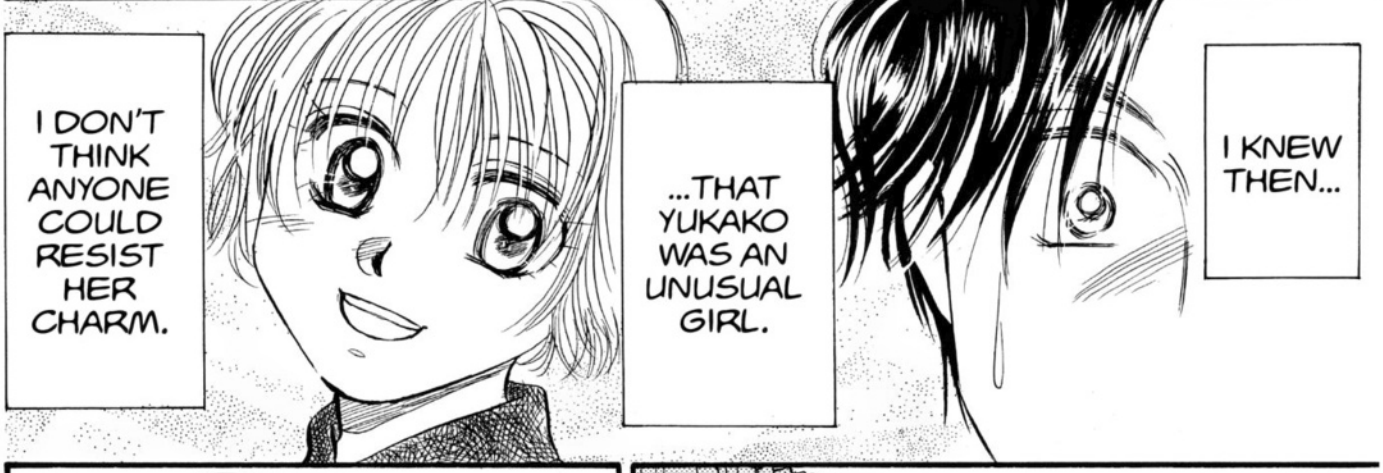
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD BE LIKE.
I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO THAT.
OH.

UM...
...
HUH?

I GUESS MAYBE...
...WE COULD GO OUT SOME-TIME.

...
OH, HEY!
WIP

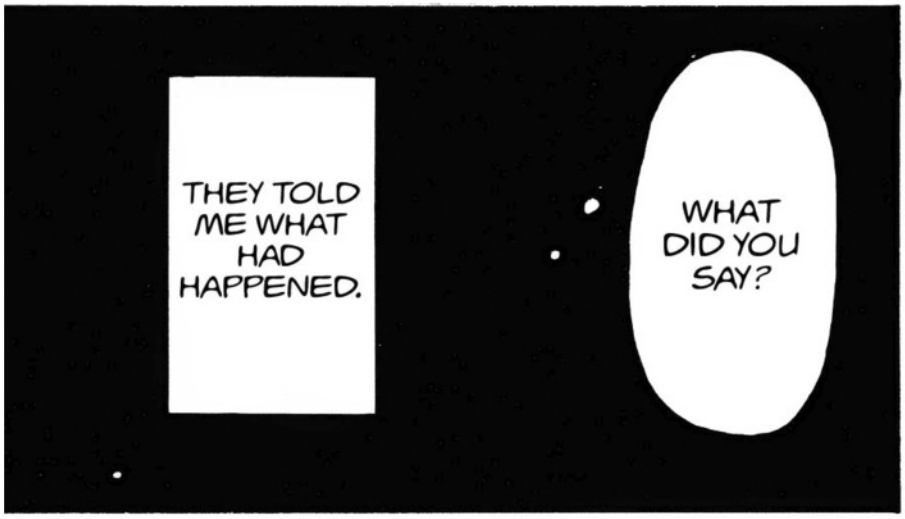
HUH?
UM, THE BATH-HOUSE IS THIS WAY.
SEE YOU.

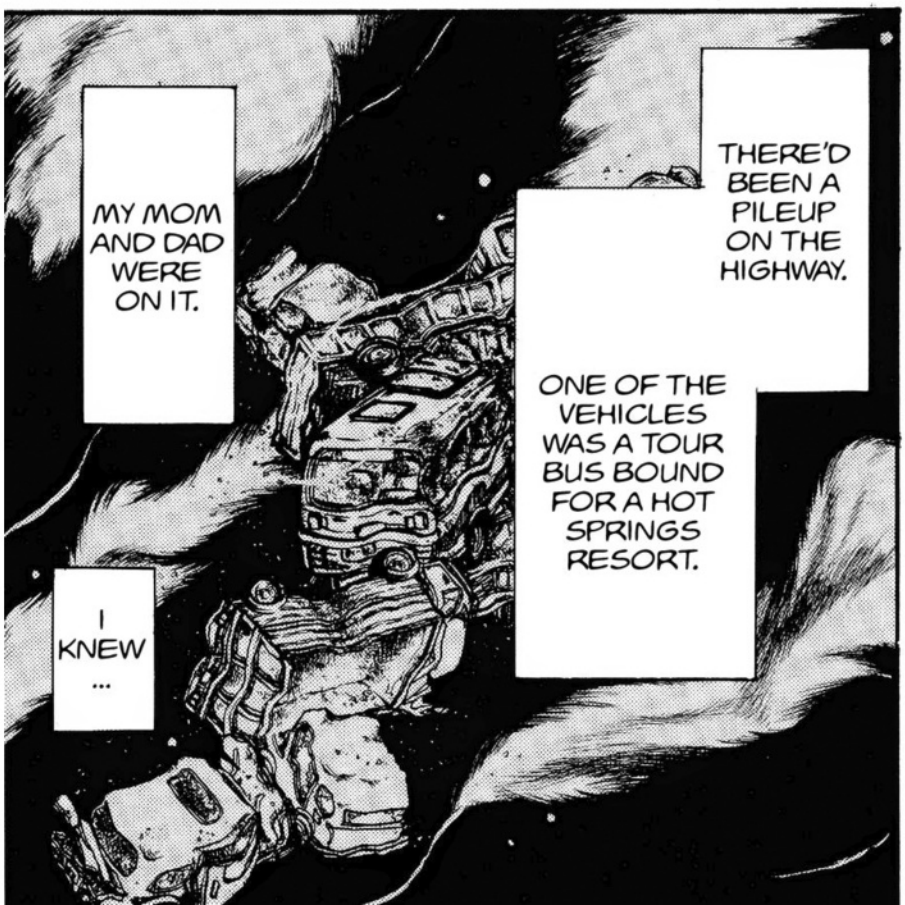

I KNEW THEN...
...THAT YUKAKO WAS AN UNUSUAL GIRL.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD RESIST HER CHARM.

I WAS COMPLETELY INDEPEN-DENT OF MY PARENTS.
WE NEED ANOTHER PLAYER. COME ON, HARUMI!
WAKE UP!
CHAKA CHAKA
I JUST WANNA SLEEP.
UZZH
UZZH
AND THEN ...

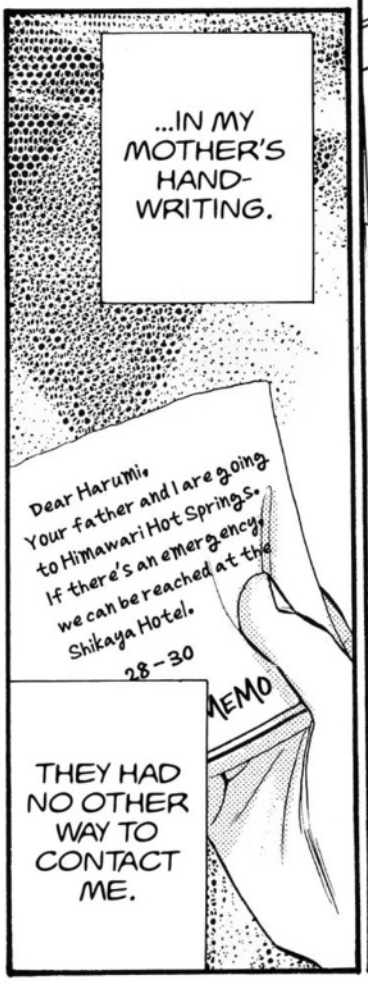
I WORKED DAY AND NIGHT THE REST OF THAT SUMMER.
SUPPOR-TING MYSELF WAS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.
UNGH
MOVING

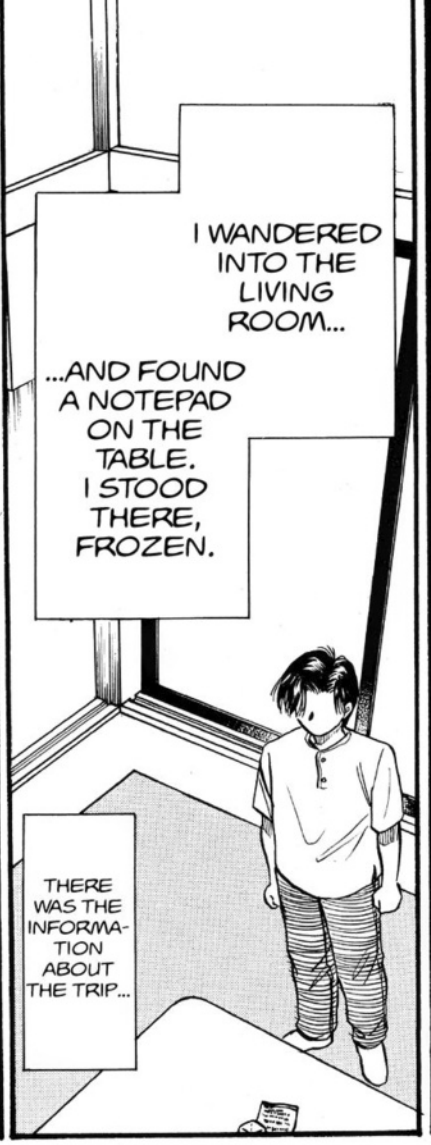
WHAT?
I HAD DROPPED BY MY PARENTS' HOUSE, BUT THERE WAS NOBODY HOME.
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR SOME TIME.
IT WAS THE POLICE.
I'M SORRY...


THEY TOLD ME WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

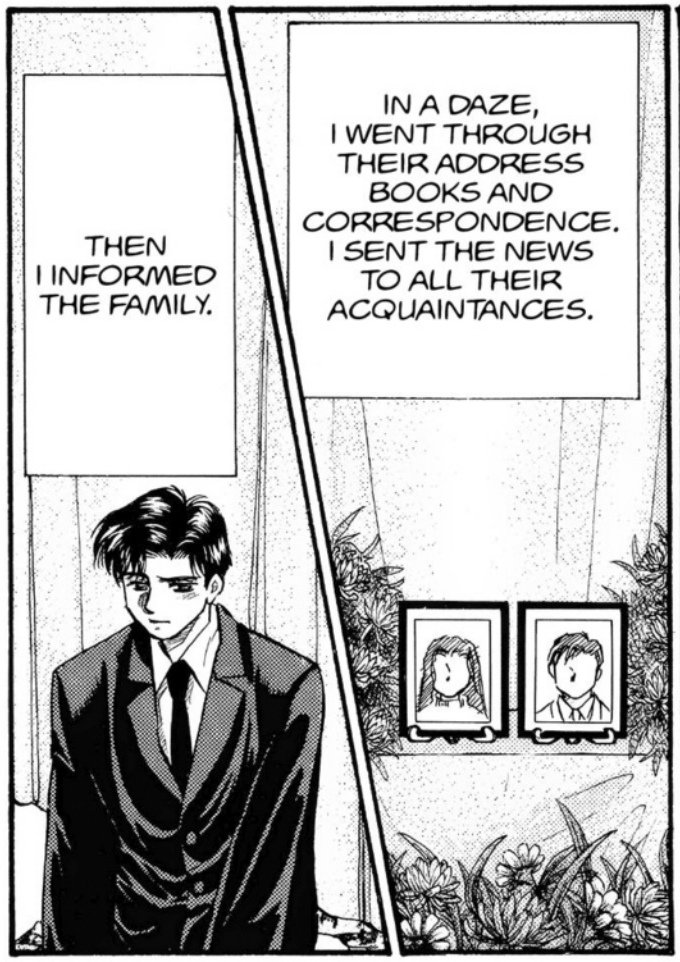

MY MOM AND DAD WERE ON IT.
THERE'D BEEN A PILEUP ON THE HIGHWAY.
ONE OF THE VEHICLES WAS A TOUR BUS BOUND FOR A HOT SPRINGS RESORT.
I KNEW ...

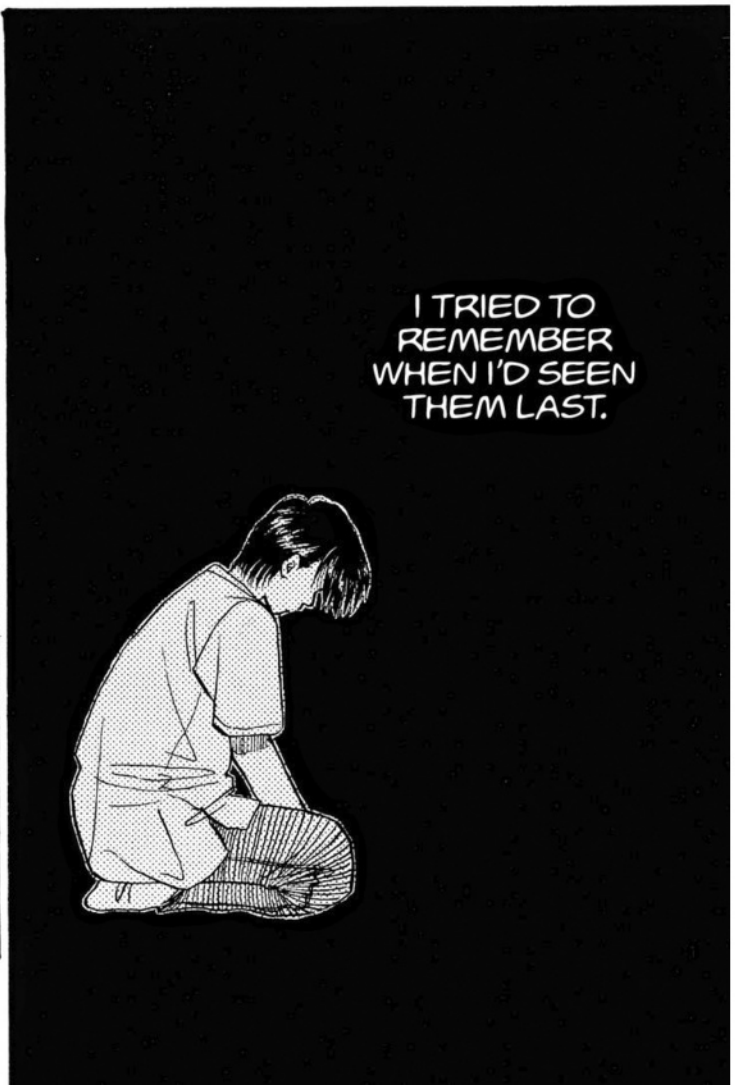
...I GOT THE NEWS.
HELLO?

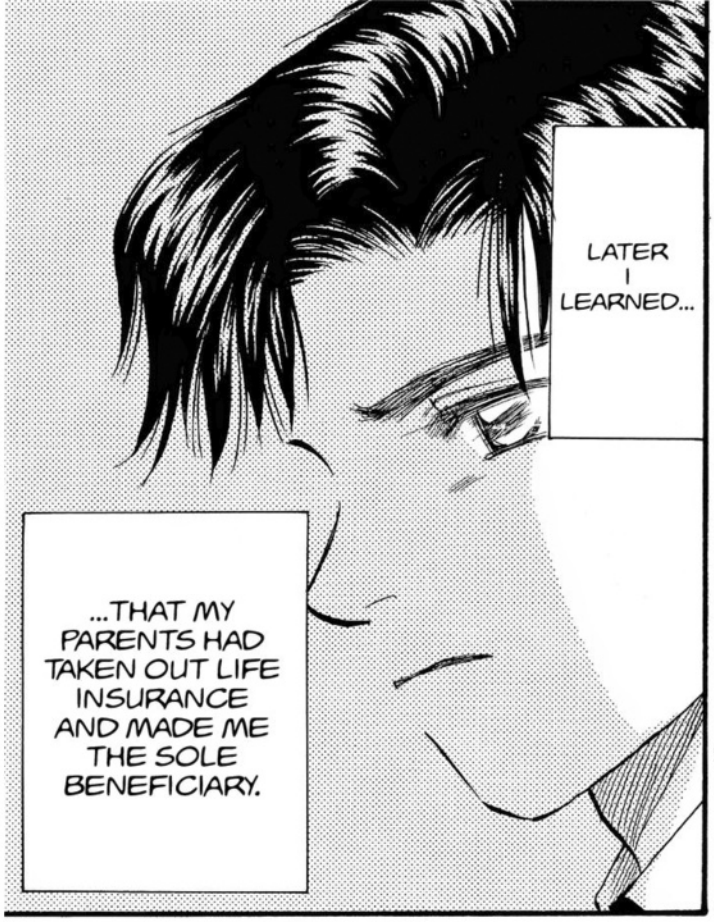

...IN MY MOTHER'S HAND-WRITING.
Dear Harumi,
Your father and I are going to Himawari Hot Springs.
If there's an emergency, we can be reached at the Shikaya Hotel.
28-30
MEMO
THEY HAD NO OTHER WAY TO CONTACT ME.


I WANDERED INTO THE LIVING ROOM...
...AND FOUND A NOTEPAD ON THE TABLE. I STOOD THERE, FROZEN.
THERE WAS THE INFORMA-TION ABOUT THE TRIP...

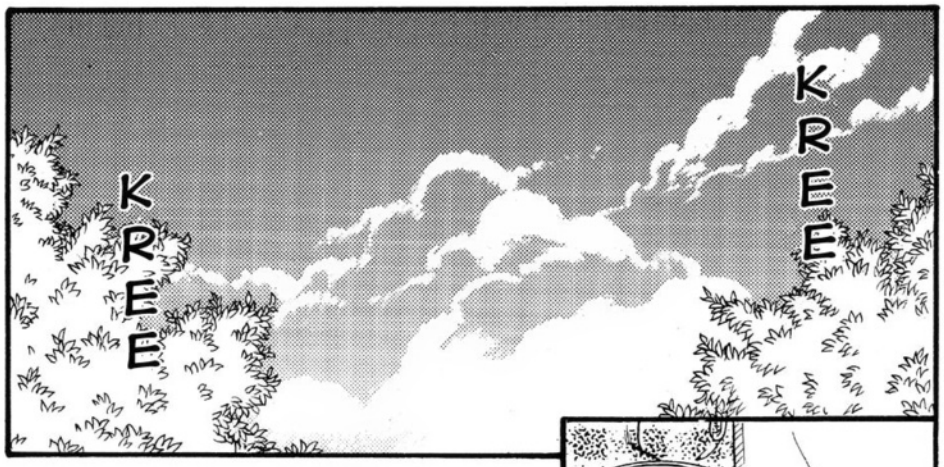
... NOTHING.
WHY HAD THEY SUDDENLY GONE ON A TRIP?
WHEN HAD THEY LEFT?


THEN I INFORMED THE FAMILY.
IN A DAZE, I WENT THROUGH THEIR ADDRESS BOOKS AND CORRESPONDENCE. I SENT THE NEWS TO ALL THEIR ACQUAINTANCES.


I TRIED TO REMEMBER WHEN I'D SEEN THEM LAST.

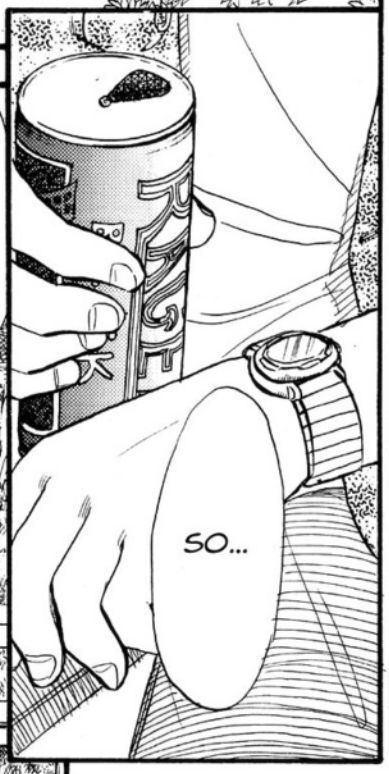

LATER I LEARNED...
...THAT MY PARENTS HAD TAKEN OUT LIFE INSURANCE AND MADE ME THE SOLE BENEFICIARY.

I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF THEM, NOT THEIR FACES OR NAMES.
I WAS ALL BY MYSELF.


KREEE
KREEE

I FELT SO UNDESERVING.

...I'VE DECIDED TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE.

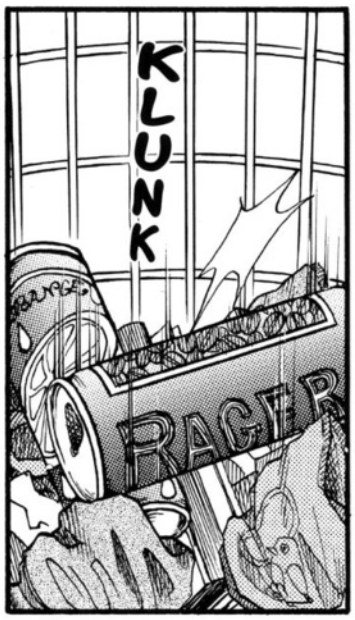

SO...

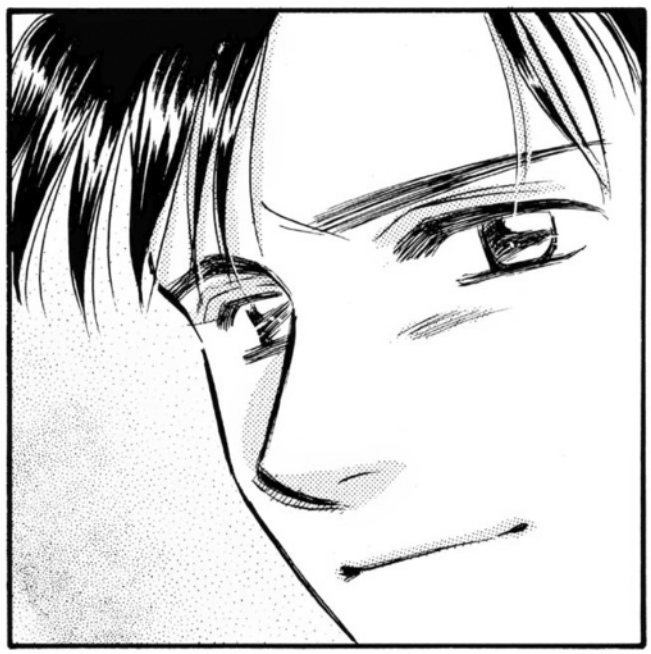
YOU FOUND A ROOM FOR US.
SORRY, YUKI.

THANKS.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...
...JUST LET ME KNOW.

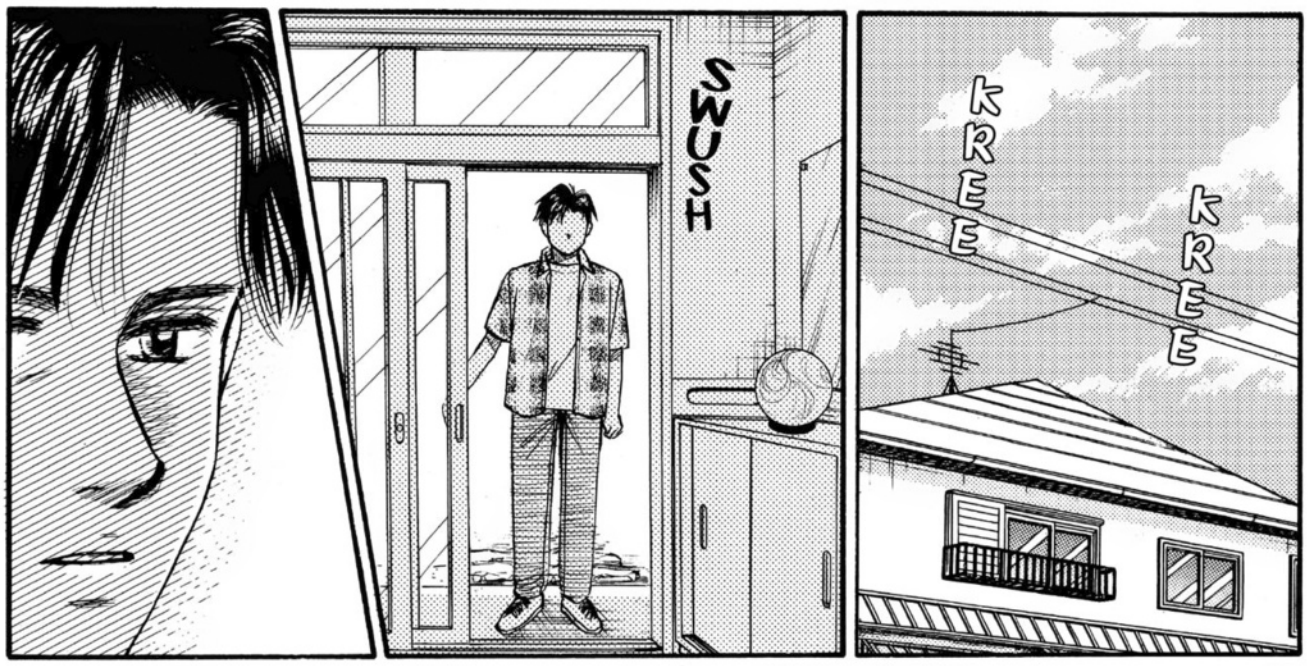
HARUMI ...


KLUNK
RACER



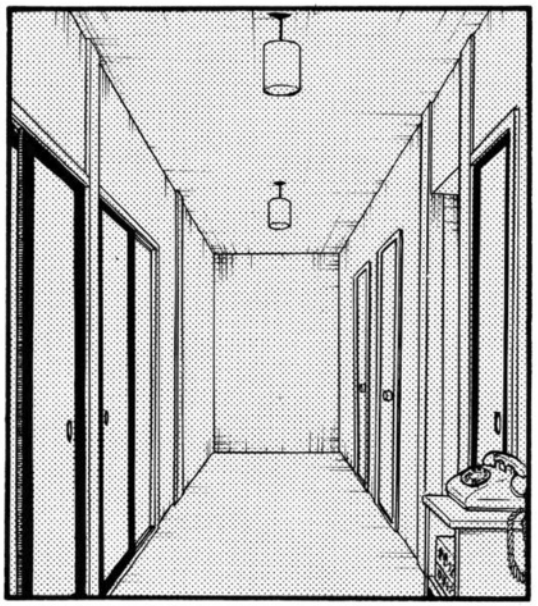
HANG IN THERE.

HOW'S YOUR FRIEND DOING?
KREE
I'LL TRY.
KREE
HUH?
THAT GUY WHO'S ALWAYS WITH YOU.
DID HE MOVE AWAY ALREADY?
YOU KNEW HE WAS PLANNING TO MOVE?
REALLY?
WHY?
HE WON'T BE GOING NOW.
WELL...
YOU SEE...
I RAN INTO HIM THE OTHER DAY.


SWUSH
KREE
KREE

SUD-DENLY I REAL-IZED...
...THAT THEY WERE REALLY GONE.

CHAK
...



I'D BEEN USING THE SAME TOWEL SINCE SHE DIED.
I REALIZED THAT SHE ALWAYS PUT A CLEAN ONE OUT FOR ME.

MY MOTHER ...
...WOULD NEVER GREET ME AGAIN.

NOW I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ANY-THING WAS.
EVERY TIME I LOST A BUTTON, SHE SEWED IT ON FOR ME.
EVERY TIME I HURT MYSELF, SHE ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF IT.
WHERE WAS THE MEDICINE BOX?
THE SEWING BOX?
MY FATHER HAD PUT IT THERE WHILE CARRYING A DESK UPSTAIRS WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
THERE WAS A DENT IN THE SUPPORT UNDER THE STAIRS.
WHEN HE SAW HOW MUCH I LIKED THEM, HE BOUGHT THEM FOR ME EVERY DAY FOR A WEEK.
ONCE, WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, MY FATHER BOUGHT SOME RICE CAKES ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK.

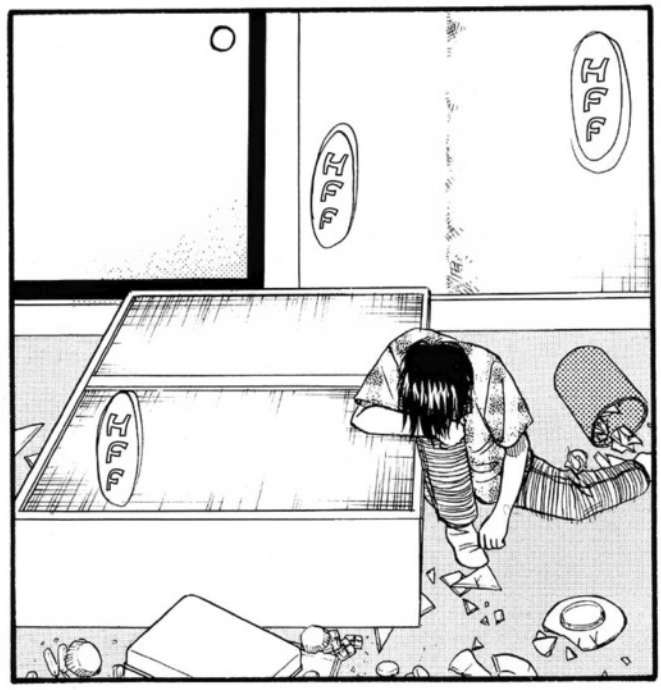
...I COULD SEE THEM SMILING...
...SO CLEARLY.

WHEN I LEARNED OF THEIR DEATHS...
...ALL I COULD SEE WAS DAD'S ANGRY FACE AND MOM'S SAD ONE.
BUT NOW...

RIP
SHREDDED
NO!
THIS ISN'T FAIR!
I'M ALL ALONE!
...

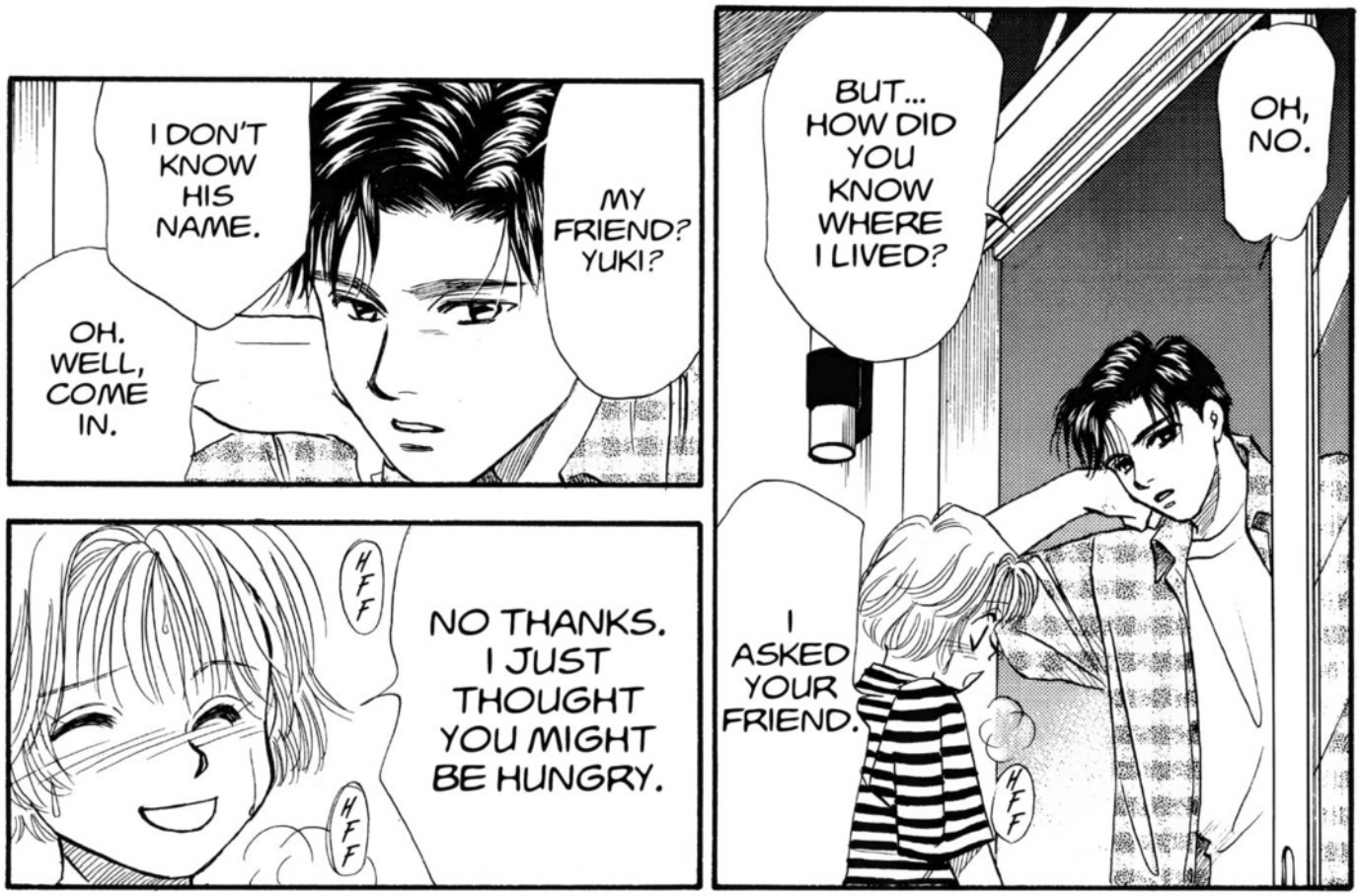
KRASH
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LEAVE ME?

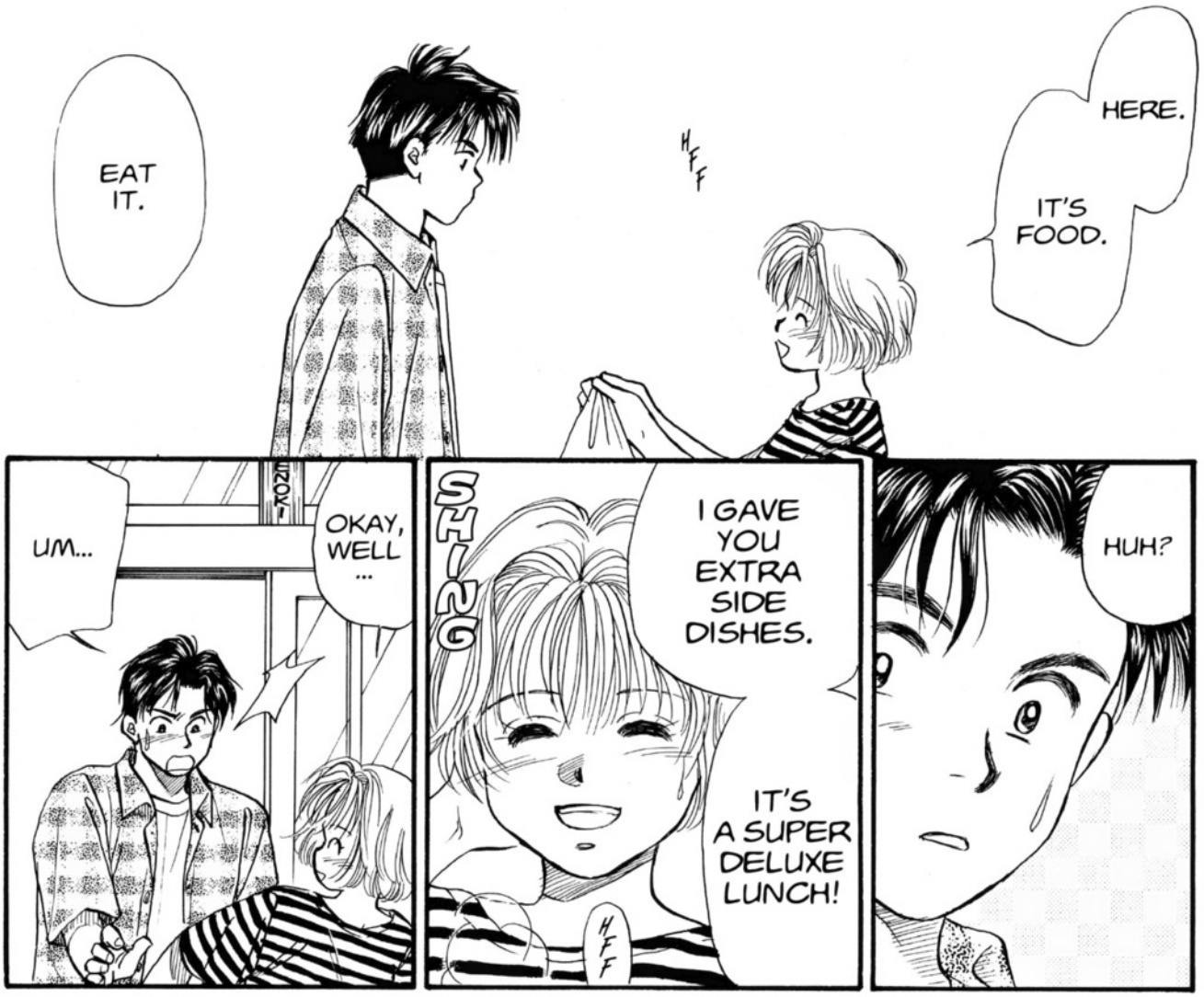
THUD
DE-SPAIR OVER-CAME ME.
I'M...


HFF
HFF
HFF
O

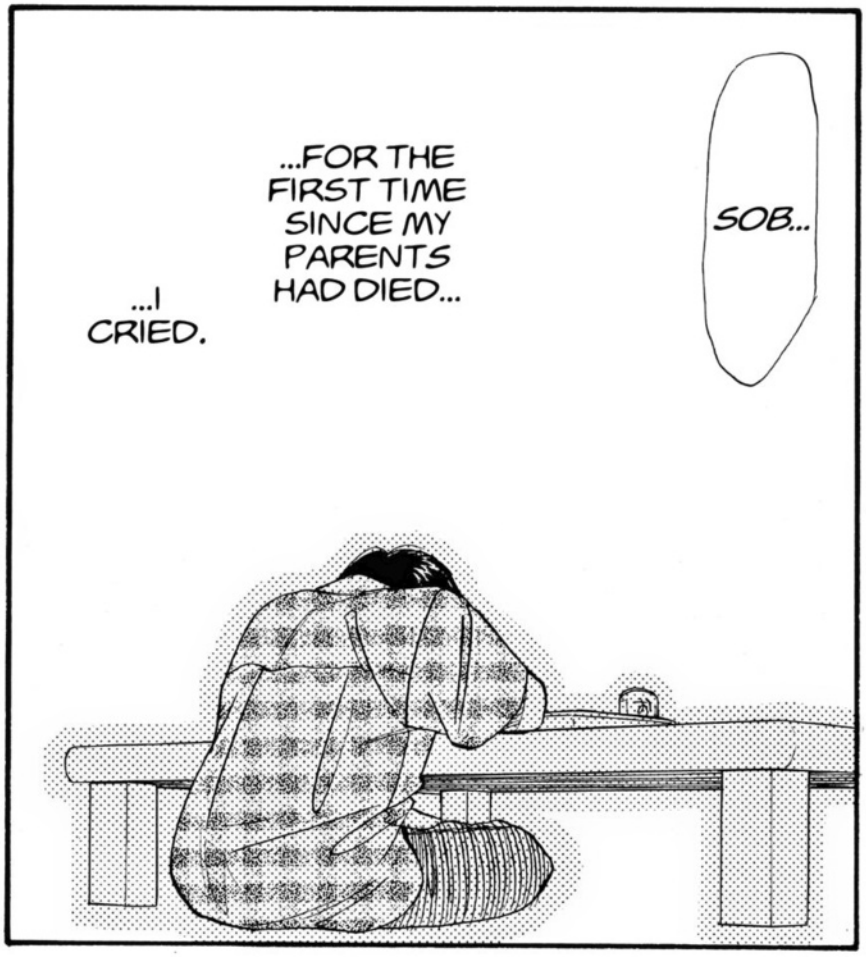
HFF
WHAK
I WAS ALONE IN THE WORLD.
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID!!
WHY?
HFF

HFF
HFF
SIGH...
I WAS ...
... TOTALLY ALONE.
MY HEART ACHED. MY WHOLE BODY WAS NUMB.
DING-DONG
DING-DONG
I WANTED TO CLING TO SOME-ONE AND BEG FOR HELP.
DING-DONG
DING-DONG
TWITCH
SOME-BODY'S ...
...AT THE DOOR.
I PUSHED MY DESPAIR ASIDE.
HFF
YUKAKO WAS STANDING THERE.
HFF
UM...
DID I WAKE YOU?


MY FRIEND? YUKI?
I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME.
OH. WELL, COME IN.
NO THANKS. I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HUNGRY.
HFF
HFF
BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVED?
OH, NO.
I ASKED YOUR FRIEND.
HFF

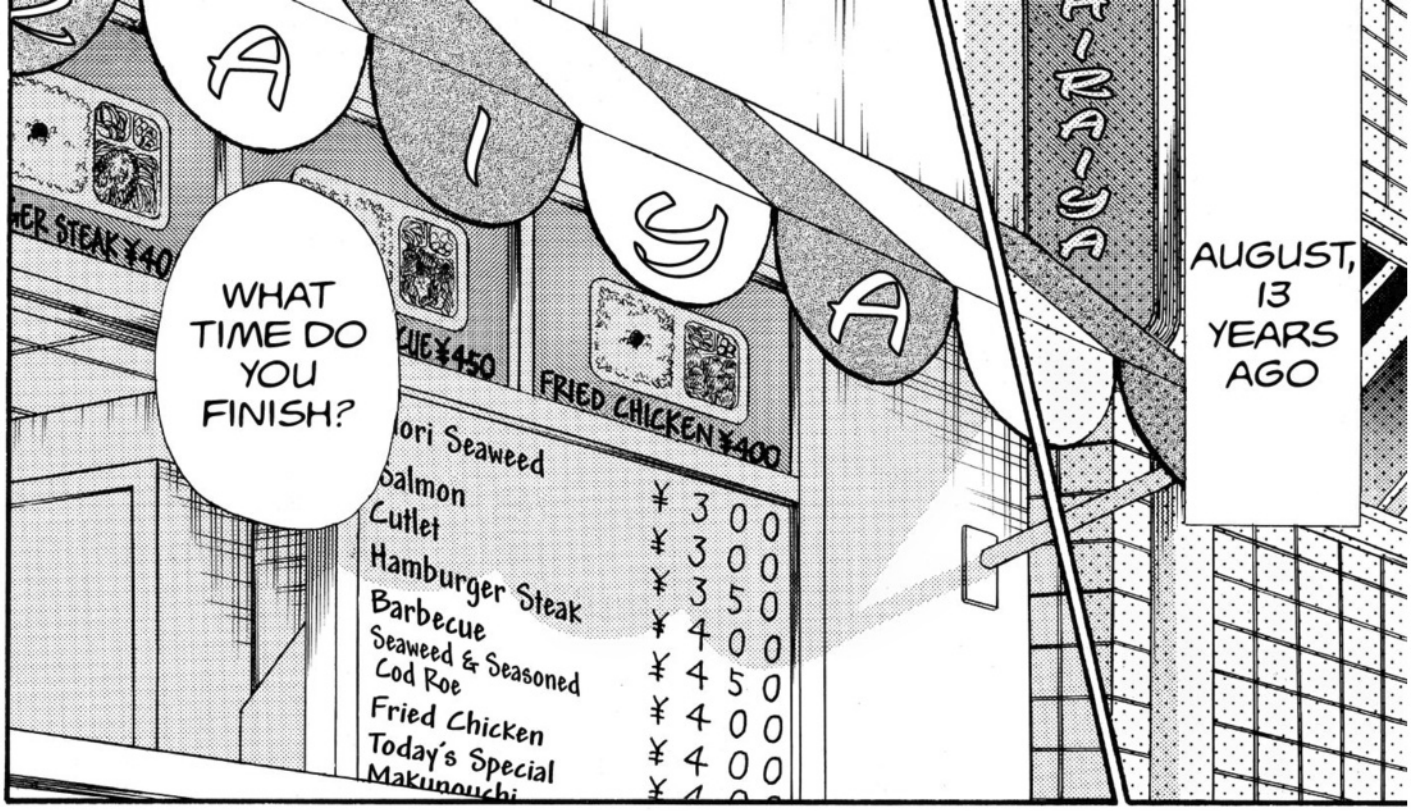

EAT IT.
HFF
HERE.
IT'S FOOD.
UM...
OKAY, WELL ...
SHING
I GAVE YOU EXTRA SIDE DISHES.
IT'S A SUPER DELUXE LUNCH!
HFF
HUH?

THANK YOU.
YOU'RE VERY KIND.
SWUP
UH...
I MEANT IT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
IT SEEMED I WASN'T COMPLETELY DEAD INSIDE.

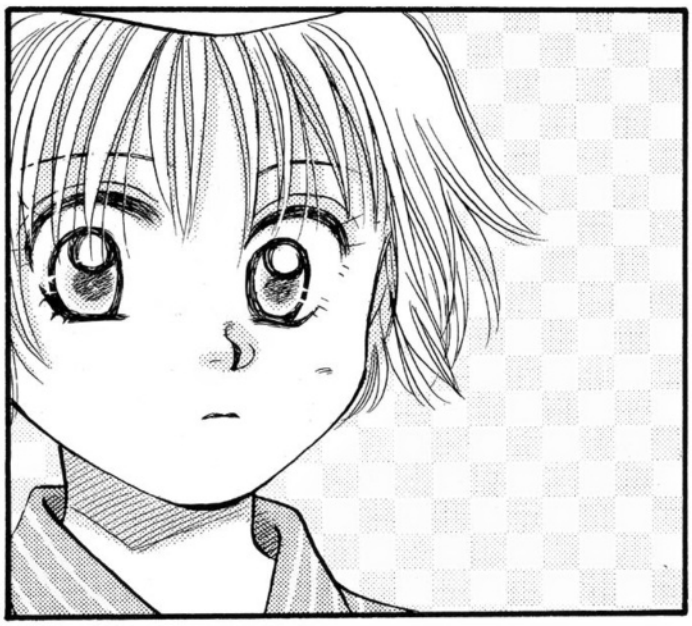


Chapter 69 / The End

Chapter 70
TAKUYA, AGE 1
YUKAKO, AGE 21
GOO
STRAWBERRY
BABY & Me

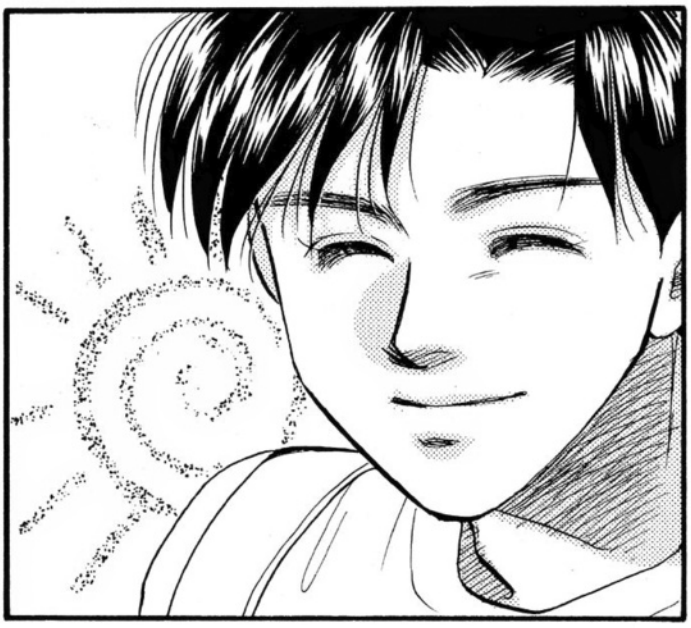

AIGA
WHAT TIME DO YOU FINISH?
AUGUST, 13 YEARS AGO
FRIED CHICKEN ¥400
Salmon ¥300
Cutlet ¥300
Hamburger Steak ¥350
Barbecue ¥400
Seaweed & Seasoned Cod Roe ¥450
Fried Chicken ¥400
Today's Special ¥400

CAN I GET A MAKUNOUCHI BOX AND A MISO SOUP WITH TOFU?
UM...
AHEM
U.S.A

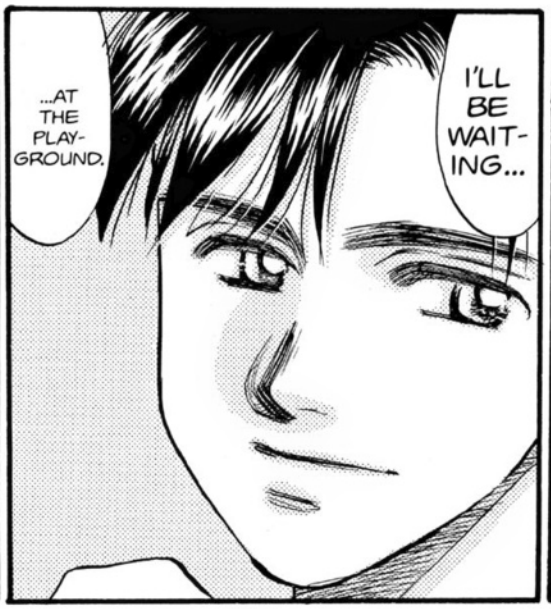


WHY?
FIVE O'CLOCK.
WSP
WSP

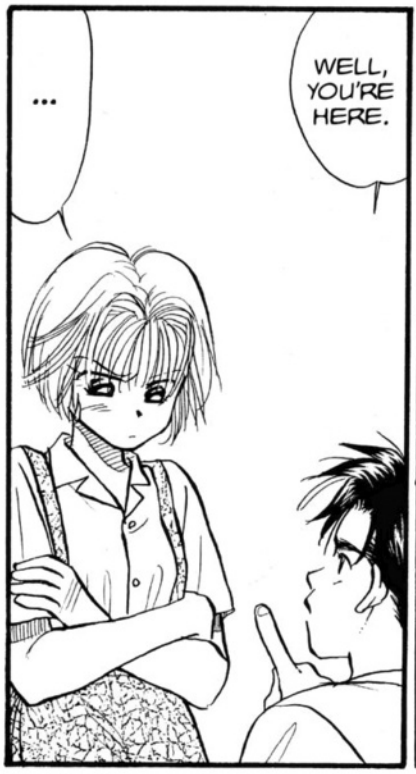
COMING RIGHT UP.



AH-HEM!
...

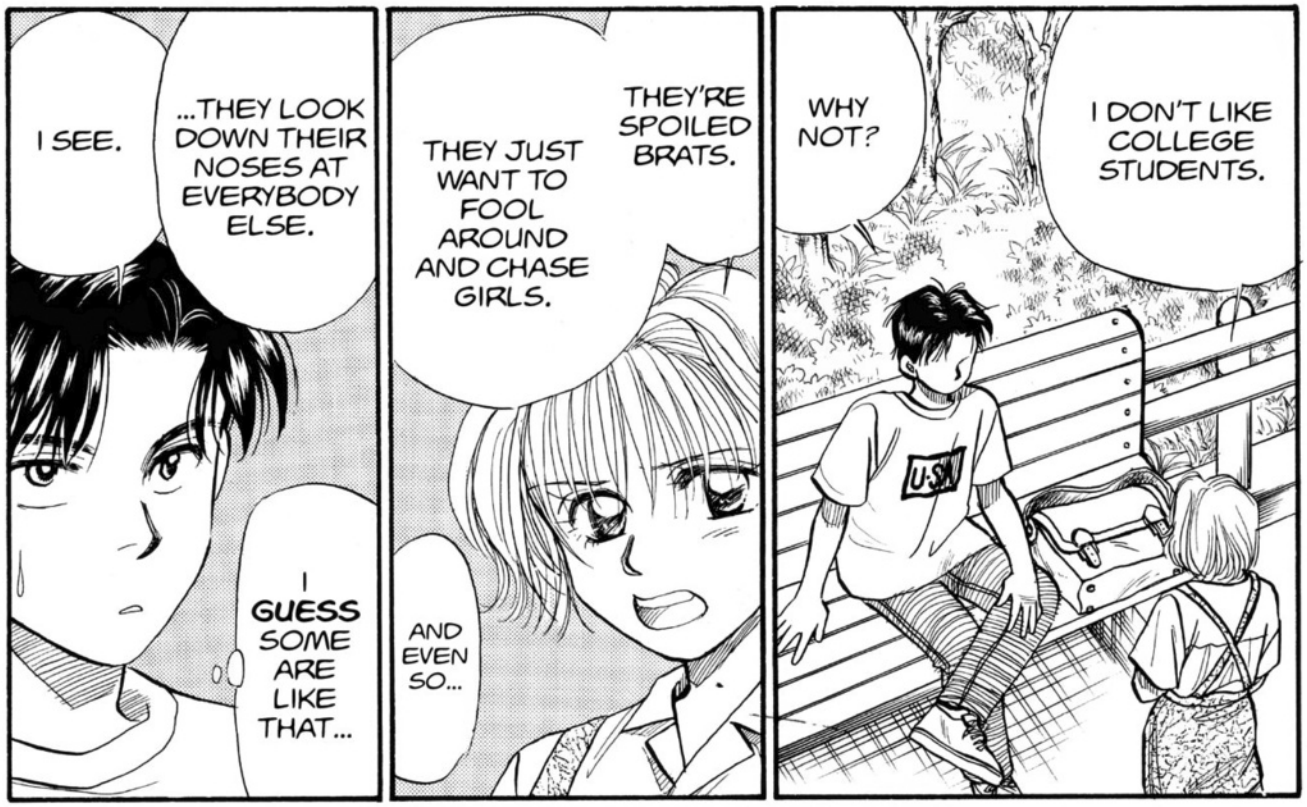

...AT THE PLAY-GROUND.
I'LL BE WAIT-ING...

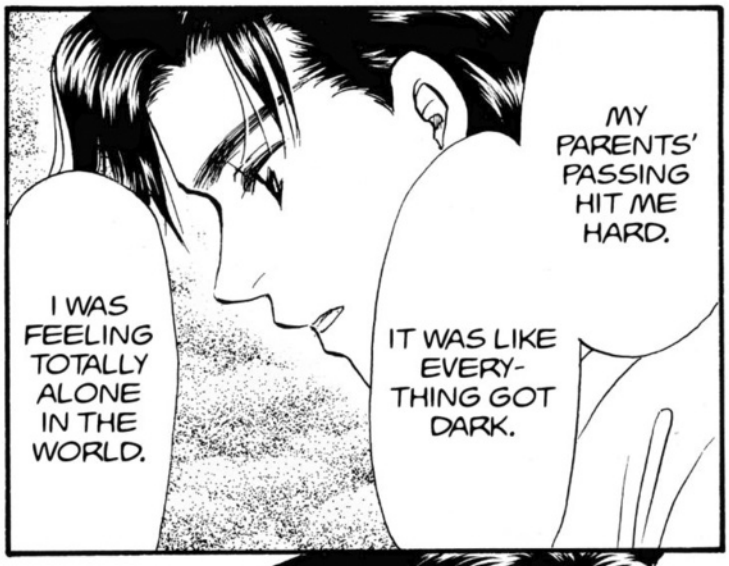
...THAT SHE'D NEVER BEEN OUT WITH A BOY BEFORE.
YUKAKO TOLD ME LATER...


...
WELL, YOU'RE HERE.

...I'D SHOW UP?

WERE YOU SO SURE...

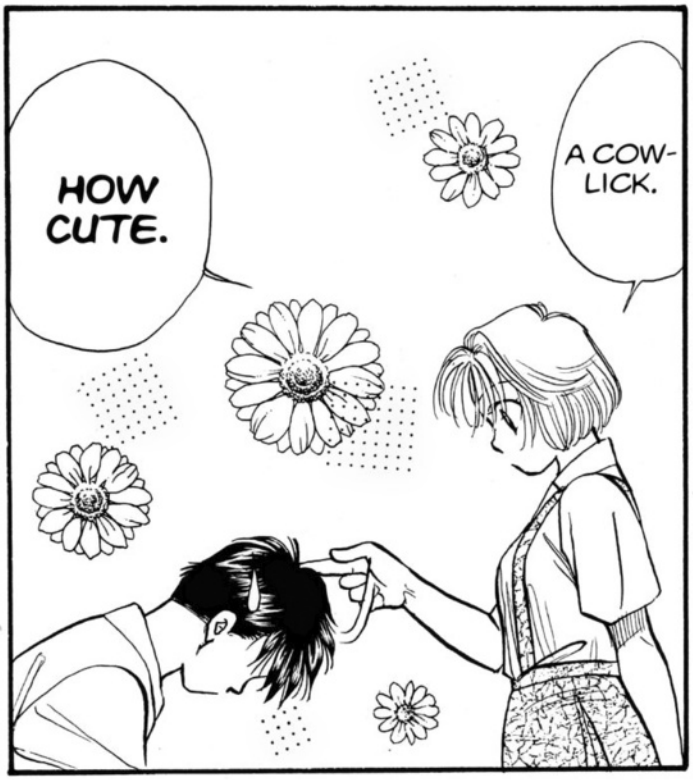

I SEE.
...THEY LOOK DOWN THEIR NOSES AT EVERYBODY ELSE.
I GUESS SOME ARE LIKE THAT...
THEY'RE SPOILED BRATS.
THEY JUST WANT TO FOOL AROUND AND CHASE GIRLS.
AND EVEN SO...
WHY NOT?
I DON'T LIKE COLLEGE STUDENTS.
U·S·A


MY PARENTS' PASSING HIT ME HARD.
IT WAS LIKE EVERY-THING GOT DARK.
I WAS FEELING TOTALLY ALONE IN THE WORLD.

WHAT?
I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU.
U·S·A

THANK YOU.
THAT LUNCH HELPED ME MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

THEN YOU SHOWED UP.

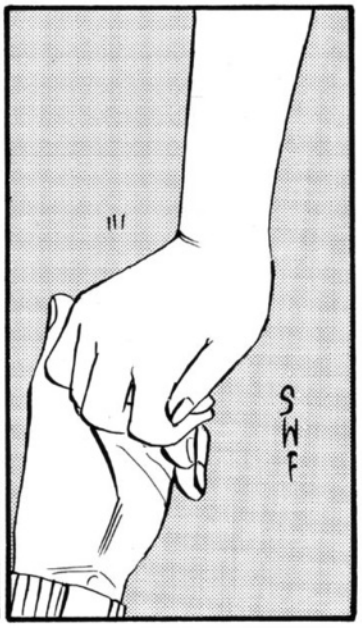

HOW CUTE.
A COW-LICK.

...

LISTEN, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FELT...
... BETTER THAN YOU THINK.
YOU DO?

YUKAKO, YOU'RE WRECKING THE MOOD!
I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
DON'T SAY THAT.
WHY NOT?
TEE-HEE♡

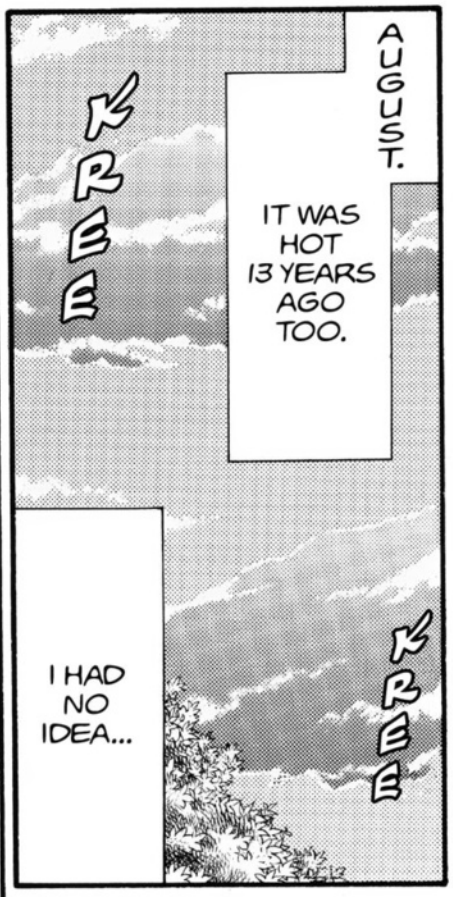
MY PARENTS ...
...WERE KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT TOO.
KREE
KREE


SWF

KREE

KREE
HOW...

...IN THIS BIG WIDE WORLD...
KREE
...DID YUKAKO AND I HAPPEN TO MEET?
WAS IT FATE?


AUGUST.
IT WAS HOT 13 YEARS AGO TOO.
KREE
I HAD NO IDEA...
KREE

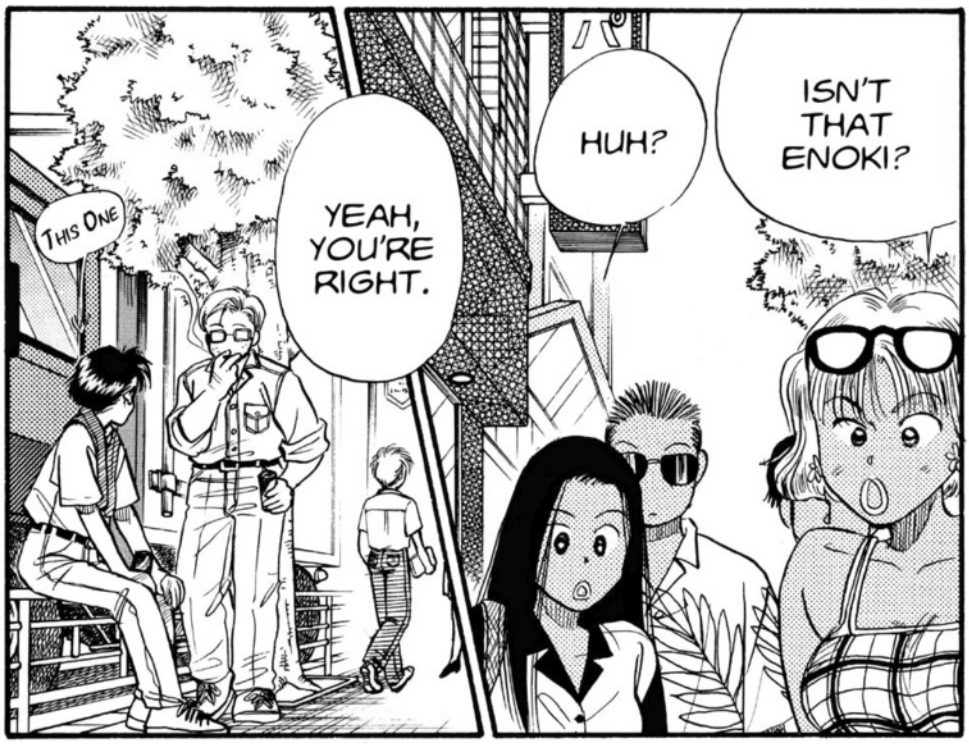
...OF MANY SUMMERS WE WOULD SPEND TOGETHER.
...THAT IT WAS JUST THE FIRST...
U·S·A
WUNN
LOOK!
WUNN

Author's Note Part 2

Out of the blue, right here... Marimo Ragawa's Let Me Draw What I Want! By Request

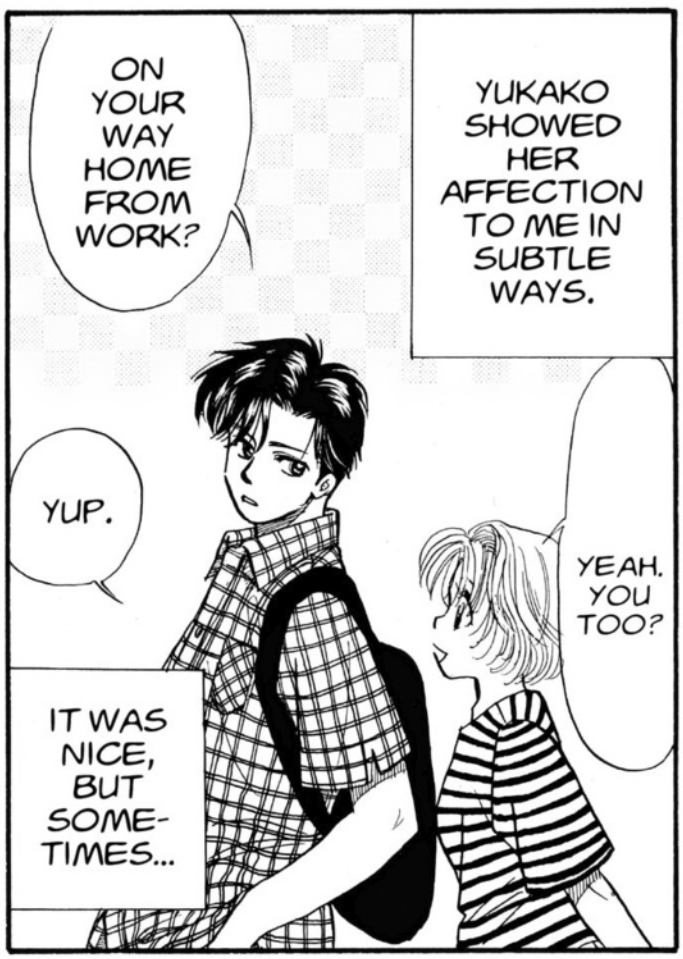
Can you tell I can't think of anything to write about?

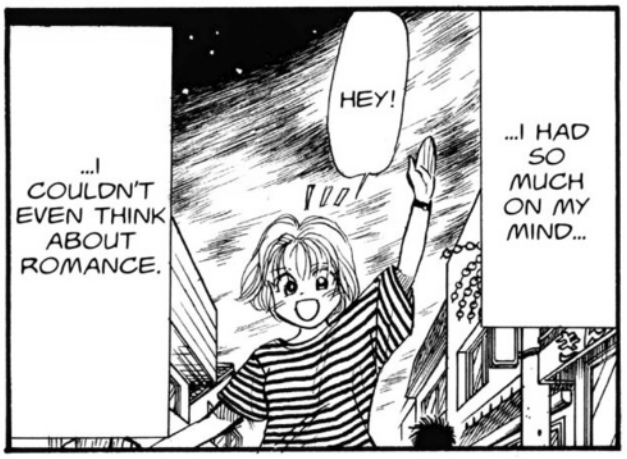
Attack of the Girl Clothes! Disguise #1: Takuya Enoki in a Pink House outfit



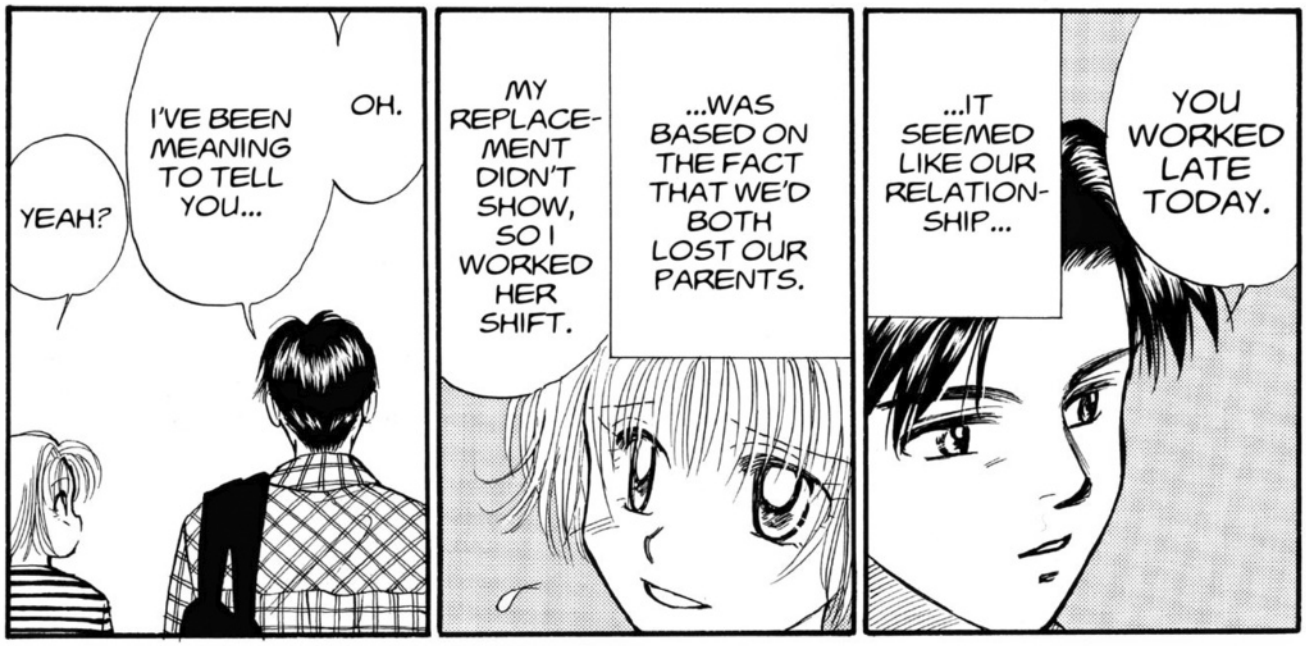
WE'RE REALLY SORRY ABOUT YOUR MOM AND DAD.
THANKS.
WHAM
UGH!
NOOO
DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS HAVE LIFE INSURANCE?
HOW COME?
REALLY?
AND YOU DON'T FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU HAVE TO PAY UNTIL SIX MONTHS LATER.
YEAH, THAT'S THE LAW.
YOU DO?
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED INHERITANCE TAX.
OKAY!
BREAK'S OVER, ENOKI. LET'S GET TO WORK!
SENKAWA TRANSPORT LTD
NO WAY. I HAD TO HIRE A TAX ACCOUNTANT.
DID YOU DO ALL THAT YOURSELF, ENOKI?
HEY...
AND THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH OWNING A HOUSE.
DID YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT LEGAL DOCUMENTS DISCLOSING THE SETTLEMENT OF AN ESTATE TO THE TAXATION OFFICE?

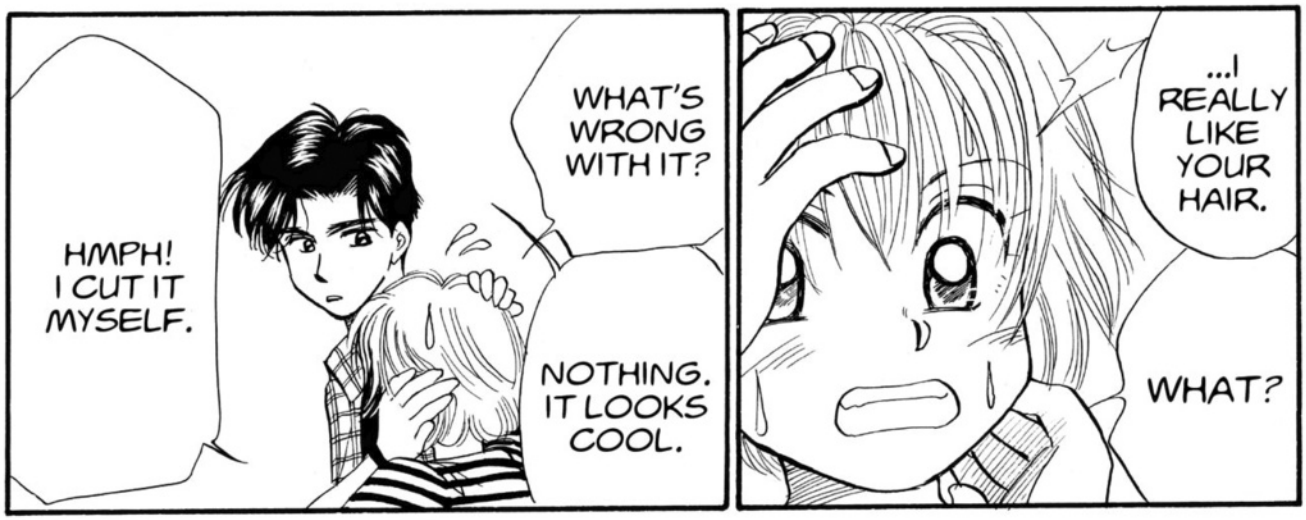
WOMEN ...
HE'S SO BRAVE AND STRONG.
SIGH...
SEE YOU GUYS AT SCHOOL IN THE FALL!
AT THAT STAGE ...
...

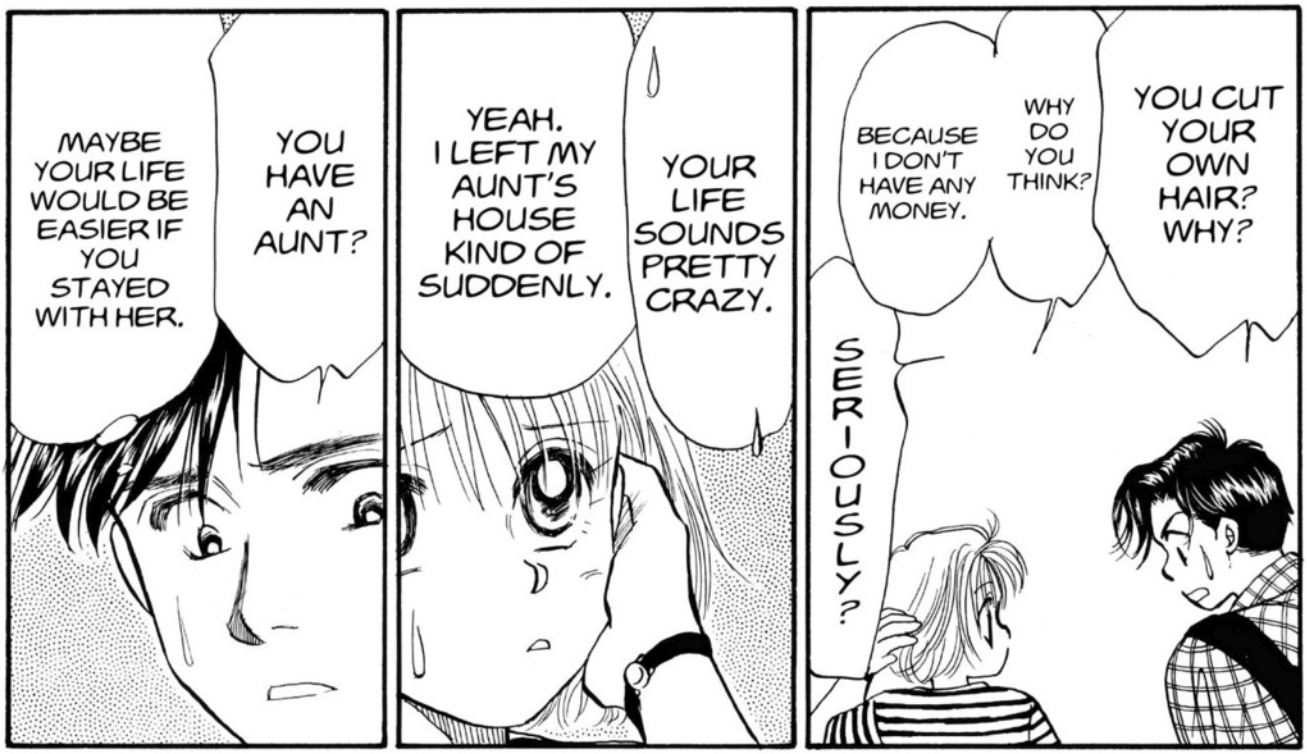

ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM WORK?
YUKAKO SHOWED HER AFFECTION TO ME IN SUBTLE WAYS.
YUP.
YEAH. YOU TOO?
IT WAS NICE, BUT SOME-TIMES...


...I COULDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT ROMANCE.
HEY!
...I HAD SO MUCH ON MY MIND...

WE WERE...
... GROWING CLOSER.
DON'T GET ME WRONG.

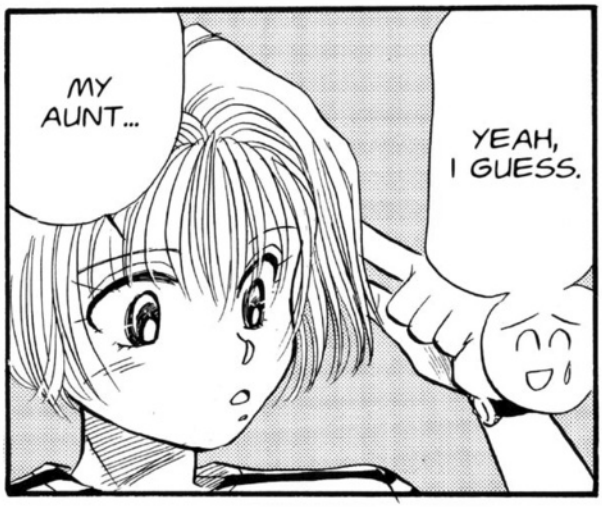

YEAH?
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU...
OH.
MY REPLACEMENT DIDN'T SHOW, SO I WORKED HER SHIFT.
...WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT WE'D BOTH LOST OUR PARENTS.
...IT SEEMED LIKE OUR RELATIONSHIP...
YOU WORKED LATE TODAY.


HMPH! I CUT IT MYSELF.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
NOTHING. IT LOOKS COOL.
...I REALLY LIKE YOUR HAIR.
WHAT?


MAYBE YOUR LIFE WOULD BE EASIER IF YOU STAYED WITH HER.
YOU HAVE AN AUNT?
YEAH. I LEFT MY AUNT'S HOUSE KIND OF SUDDENLY.
YOUR LIFE SOUNDS PRETTY CRAZY.
BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
WHY DO YOU THINK?
YOU CUT YOUR OWN HAIR? WHY?
SERIOUSLY?

I SEE.
WE DON'T GET ALONG AT ALL.
...DOESN'T LIKE ME.
HA HA HA

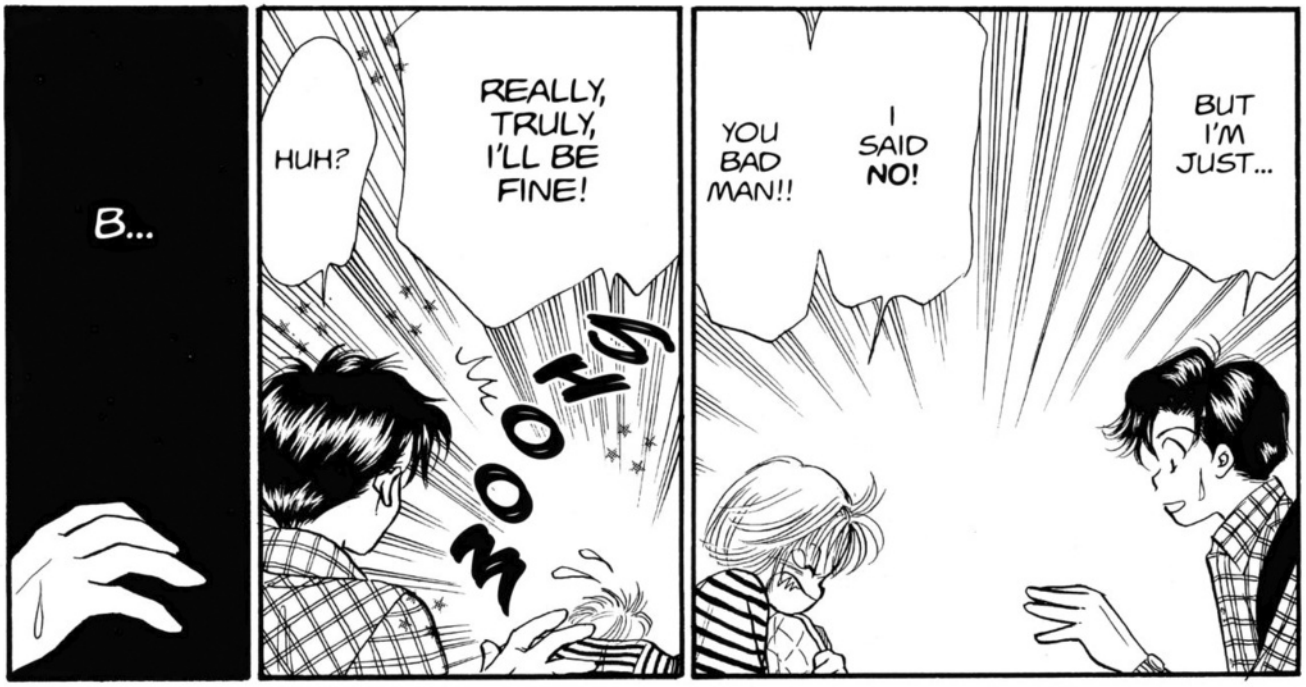
HUH?
WELL...
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I LEFT.

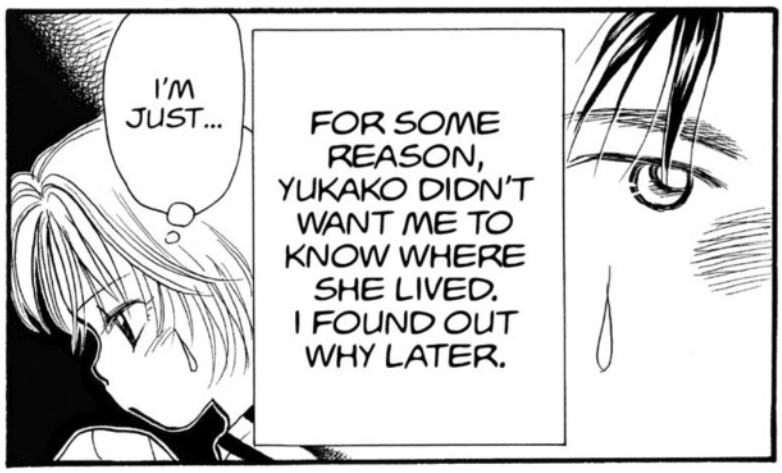

MY AUNT...
YEAH, I GUESS.

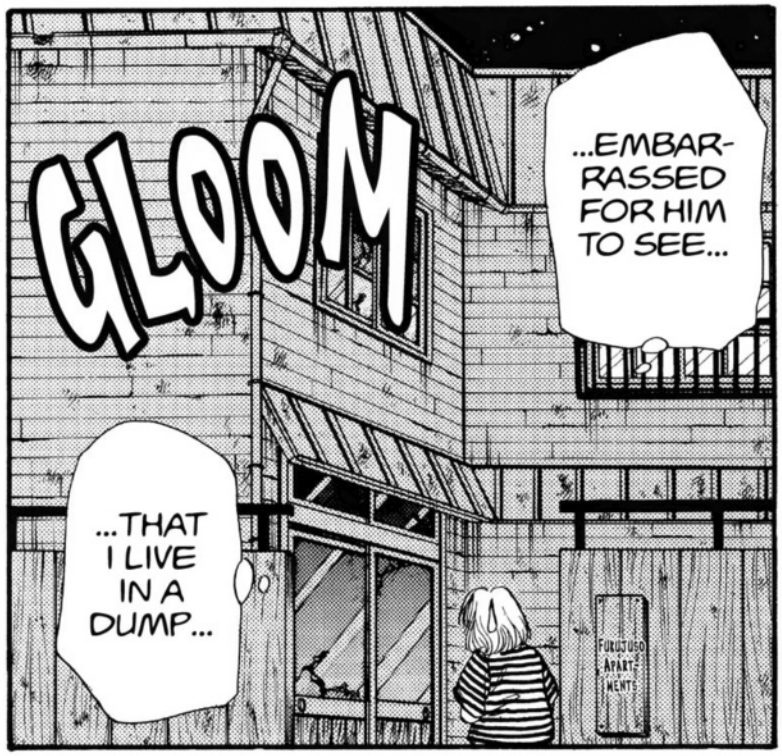
IT'S NOT NECESSARY!

WHAT? BUT IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A GIRL TO WALK ALONE AT NIGHT.
N-NO THANKS! THAT'S NOT NECESSARY!

IT'S GETTING DARK. I'LL WALK YOU HOME.


B...
HUH?
REALLY, TRULY, I'LL BE FINE!
GLOOM
YOU BAD MAN!!
I SAID NO!
BUT I'M JUST...

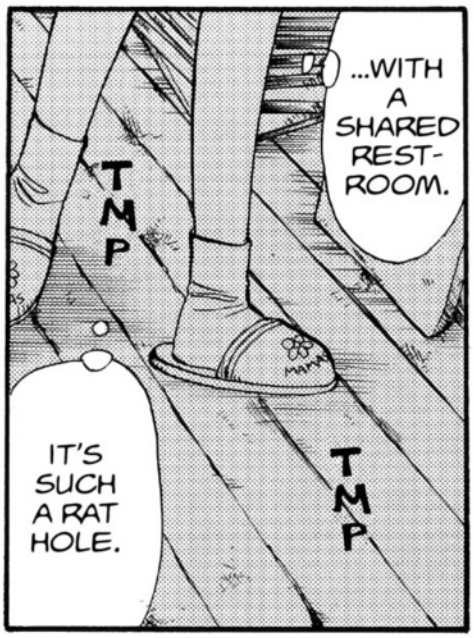

I'M JUST...
FOR SOME REASON, YUKAKO DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW WHERE SHE LIVED. I FOUND OUT WHY LATER.


GLOOM
...EMBARRASSED FOR HIM TO SEE...
...THAT I LIVE IN A DUMP...
FUKUJUSO APARTMENTS

BAD MAN?

OOPS.
LAUNDRY TIME.

SIGH
106
CHAK
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE.

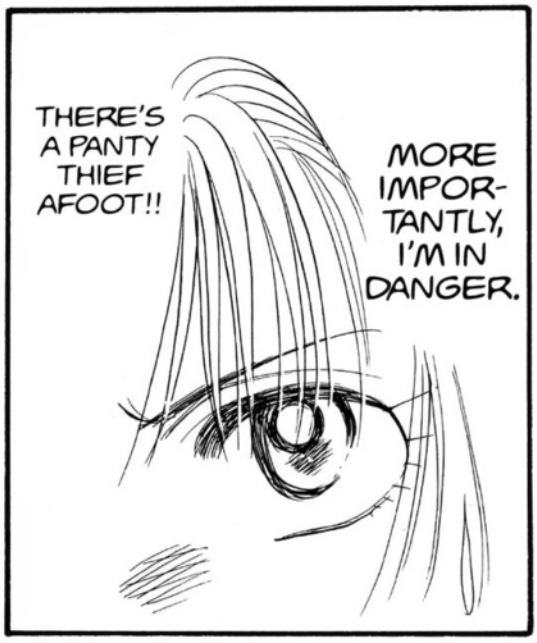

...WITH A SHARED REST-ROOM.
TMP
TMP
IT'S SUCH A RAT HOLE.

I ONLY HAVE A FEW PAIRS, SO I'VE BEEN SUPER CAREFUL WITH THEM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

THEY'RE GONE!
MY PAN-TIES...

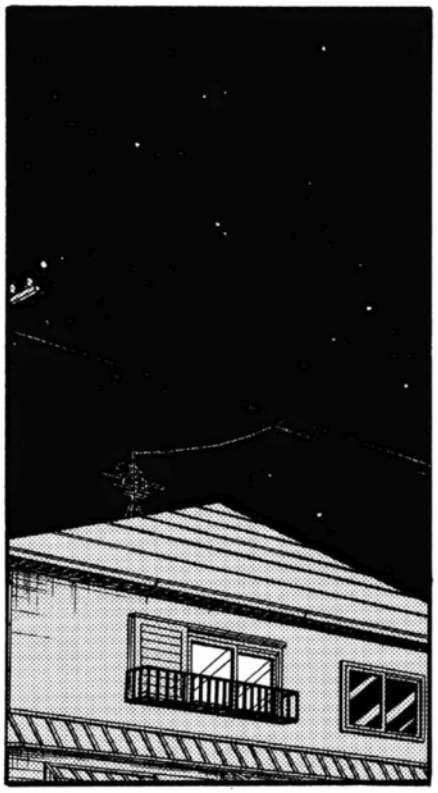
KTTK
OH?

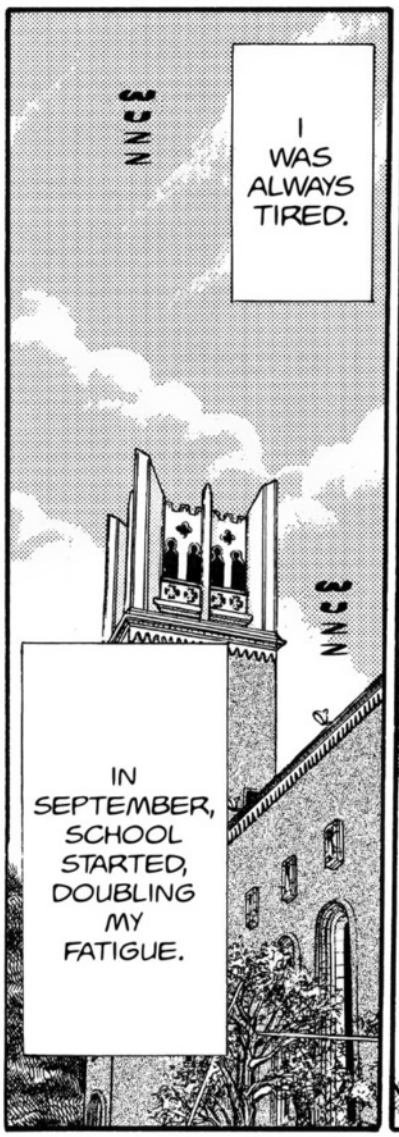
HMM...


THERE'S A PANTY THIEF AFOOT!!
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, I'M IN DANGER.

I'M SO TIRED.
SLEEP...

SIGH...




I WAS ALWAYS TIRED.
IN SEPTEMBER, SCHOOL STARTED, DOUBLING MY FATIGUE.

I DIDN'T SIT IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR...
...AND PRAY FOR MOM AND DAD.

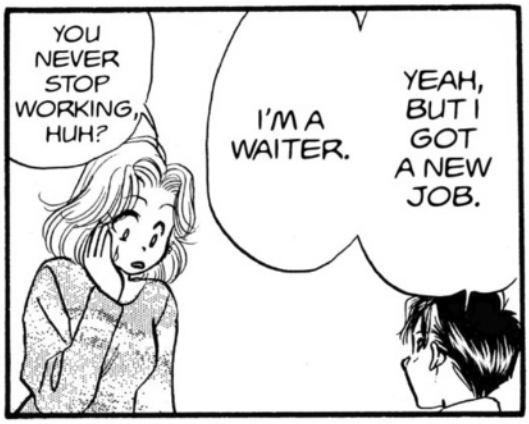
UGH.
I'VE GOT A LOT OF DIRTY LAUNDRY.
I HAVEN'T CLEANED THE HOUSE EITHER.

AND THE SINK'S FULL OF DISHES.
GRK ...
DARN. I SHOULD'VE CALLED THE ACCOUNTANT.
THUP

OH CRAP...
FWUMP
NO MORE TODAY.

SORRY TO WAKE YOU, ENOKI.
WANNA JOIN US FOR AN ALL-NIGHT MAHJONG PARTY?
IGNORE THOSE GUYS. COME DRINKING WITH US! ♡

HUH?
WHAA
WHAT ABOUT CLASS?


YEAH, BUT I GOT A NEW JOB.
I'M A WAITER.
YOU NEVER STOP WORKING, HUH?

IT'S OVER. YOU WERE OUT COLD.
WUNN
DO YOU JUST COME TO CLASS TO SLEEP?
LET'S GO HAVE A DRINK!
YOU QUIT YOUR JOB WITH THE TRANS-PORTA-TION COM-PANY, RIGHT?
WUNN

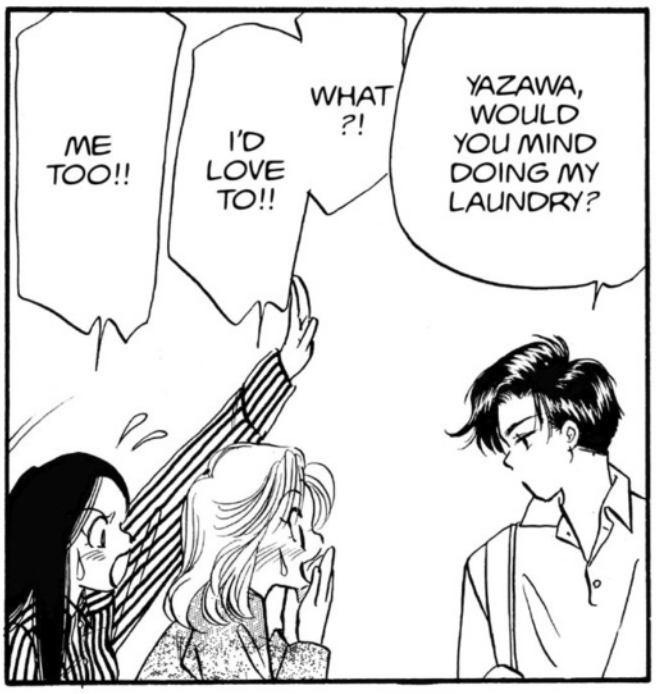
I MADE ENOUGH TO PAY MY TUITION.
WHUP
I DON'T HAVE IT SO BAD.

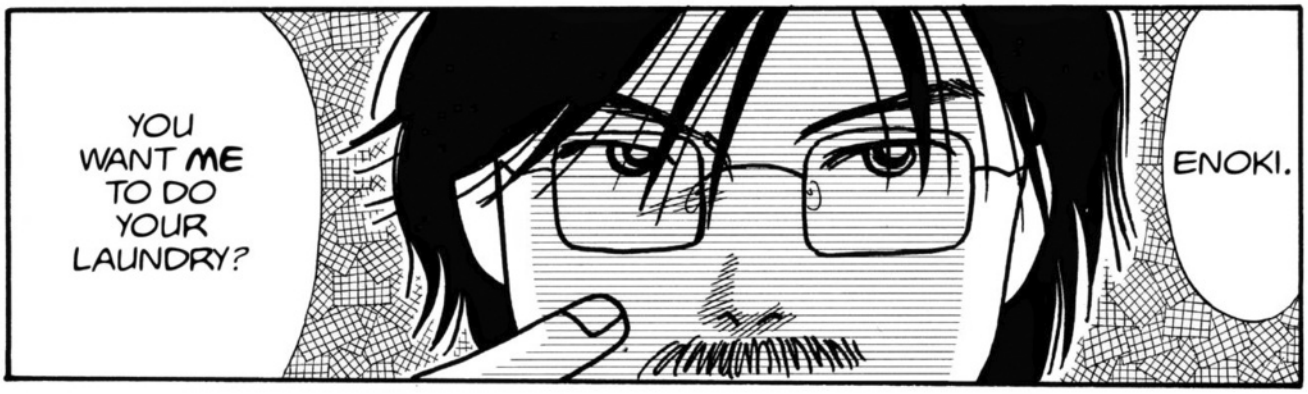
...HOUSE-KEEPING.
WUNN
HEY, WANNA COME WITH US?
WUNN

THE PROB-LEM IS...

I WAS JUST KID-DING.
OH. I KNEW THAT.
DARN.
HEH HEH
HA HA HA

...


YAZAWA, WOULD YOU MIND DOING MY LAUNDRY?
WHAT ?!
I'D LOVE TO!!
ME TOO!!


ENOKI.
YOU WANT ME TO DO YOUR LAUNDRY?

ARE YOU A STUDENT?

NO THANKS.
B-DMP
FOR A MINUTE THERE I ALMOST TOOK HIM UP ON IT.
AM I THAT DESPER-ATE?
B-DMP
B-DMP
I'LL DO IT FOR 5,000 YEN A DAY!

KLANK
...
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

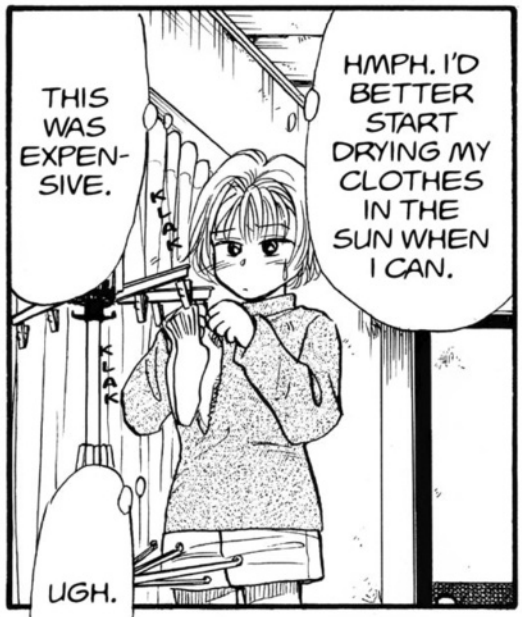
NO CIGARETTES IN TRASH!!!
TOMP TOMP
...

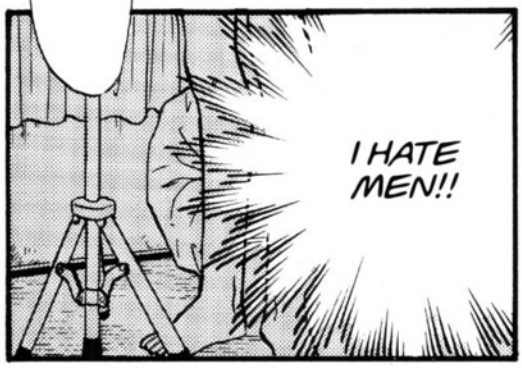
WHAT?
YOU'RE REALLY PRETTY.
I'M TAKEI FROM 201.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
Jump

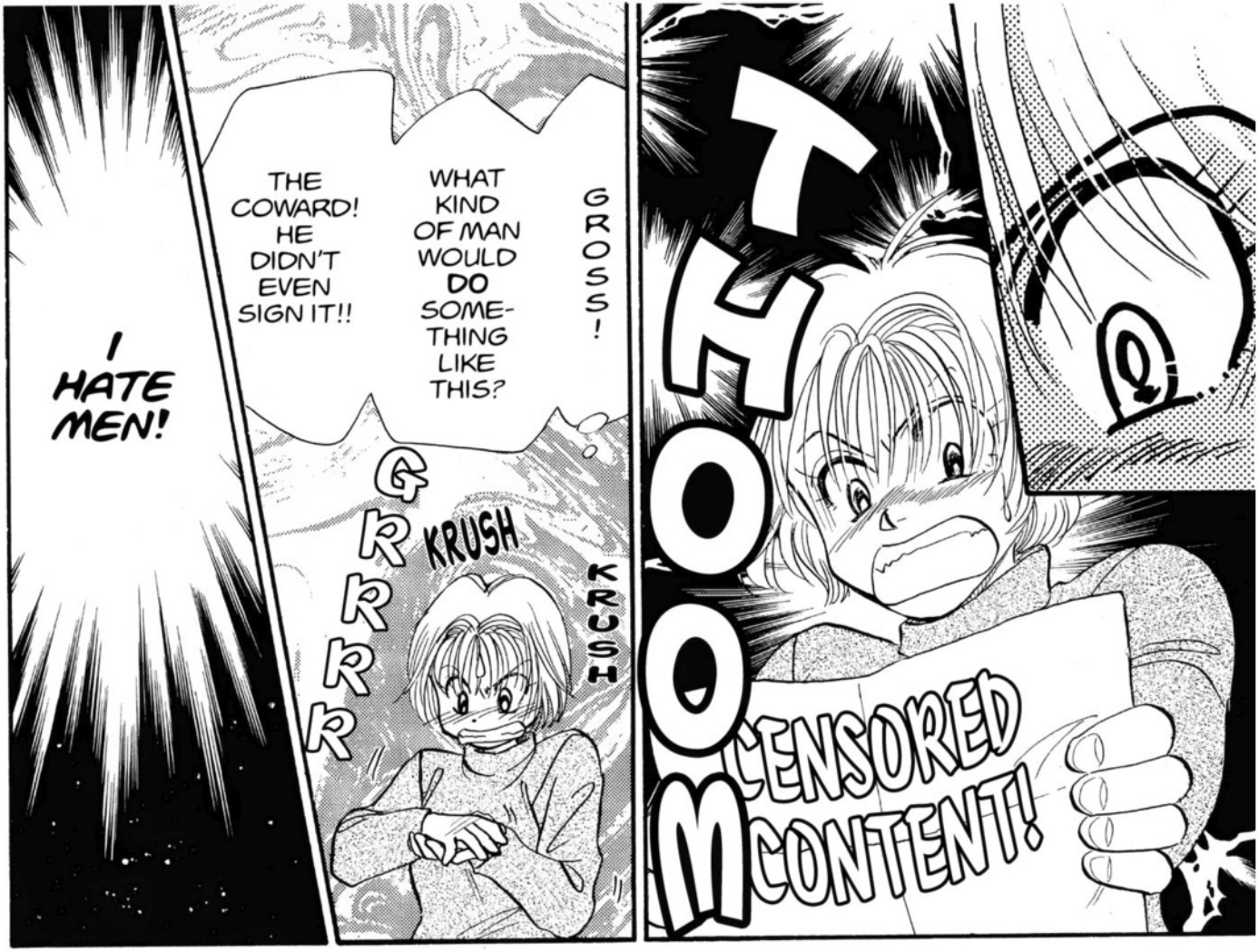
WHAT'S THIS? MORE ADS?
IT DOESN'T SAY WHO IT'S FROM.

LET'S SEE.
RIP
RIP

TIME FOR WORK.
HUH?


HMPH. I'D BETTER START DRYING MY CLOTHES IN THE SUN WHEN I CAN.
THIS WAS EXPENSIVE.
KAPLK
KAPLK
UGH.


I HATE MEN!!


THOOM
CENSORED CONTENT!
GROSS!
WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
THE COWARD! HE DIDN'T EVEN SIGN IT!!
I HATE MEN!
KRUSH
KRUSH
GRRRRR

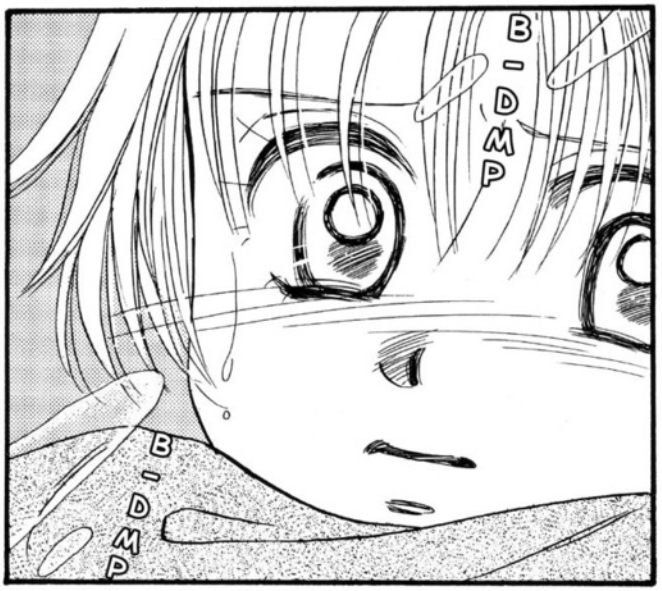
HOW MUCH MONEY HAVE I SAVED SO FAR?
NOT MUCH MONEY LEFT.
I GUESS I'LL USE A COIN SHOWER TOMORROW MORNING INSTEAD OF THE PUBLIC BATHS.
WUFF
WUFF
PLONK
I'M SO TIRED.
TIME FOR BED.
ZZZZZ

WH... WHAT WAS THAT?

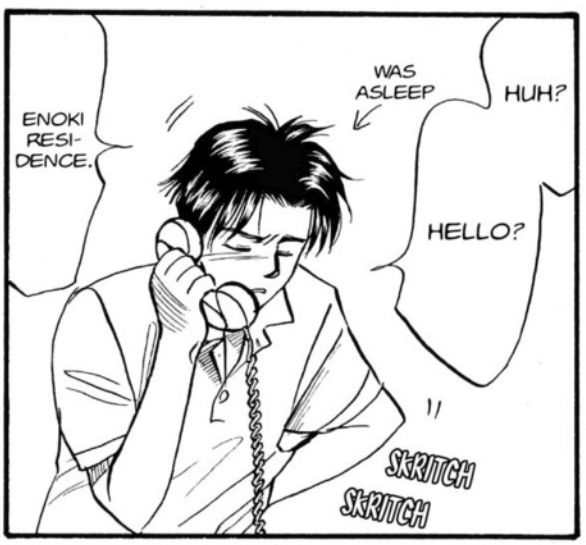
OH!!

!
FLASH

RING
RING


B-DMP
B-DMP

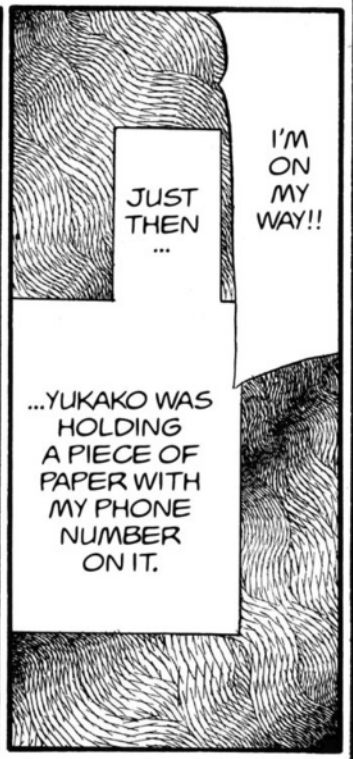
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
YUKAKO?


ENOKI RESI-DENCE.
WAS ASLEEP
HUH?
HELLO?
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

TH-THE WINDOW WAS OPEN...AND...
WHAT HAPPENED?
FROM THE HALL OF MY APARTMENT BUILDING.
SOB
...THE LOCK WAS BROKEN.

WHAT?
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE! WHERE ARE YOU?
AND SOMEBODY... TOOK A PICTURE OF ME!
SOB

I WAS THE ONLY PERSON SHE COULD TURN TO.
HFF
HFF


I'M ON MY WAY!!
JUST THEN ...
...YUKAKO WAS HOLDING A PIECE OF PAPER WITH MY PHONE NUMBER ON IT.

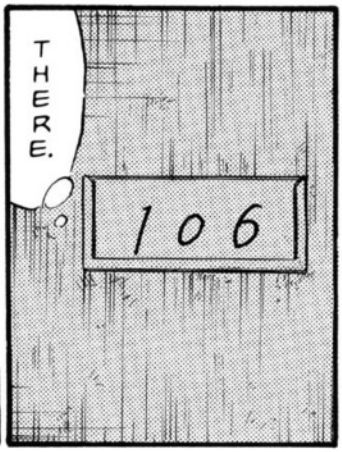
SOB...
UNH... WHAT'LL I DO?
I'M SO SCARED.
SOB
WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM, YUKAKO?

THIS MUST BE IT.
FURUSUSO APARTMENTS

A RUN-DOWN BUILDING WITH A WOODEN FENCE...
HFF

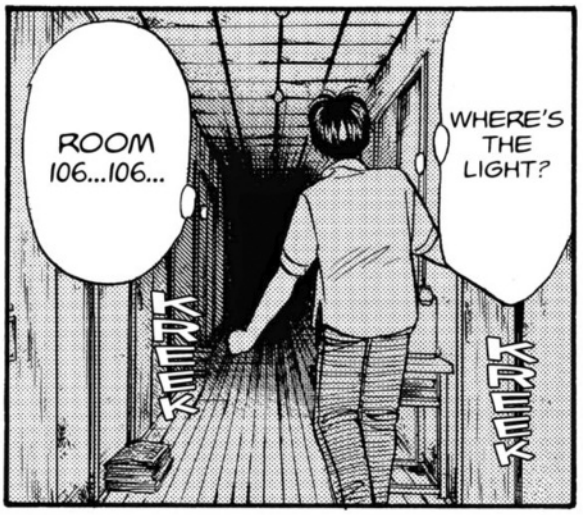
HMM...
HFF
HFF

YUKAKO?
KNOCK
YUKAKO?
KNOCK


THERE.
106

WOW.
IT'S SO DARK.
THIS IS WHERE SHE LIVES?

YUKA—
SHWUFF


WHERE'S THE LIGHT?
ROOM 106...106...
KREEK
KREEK

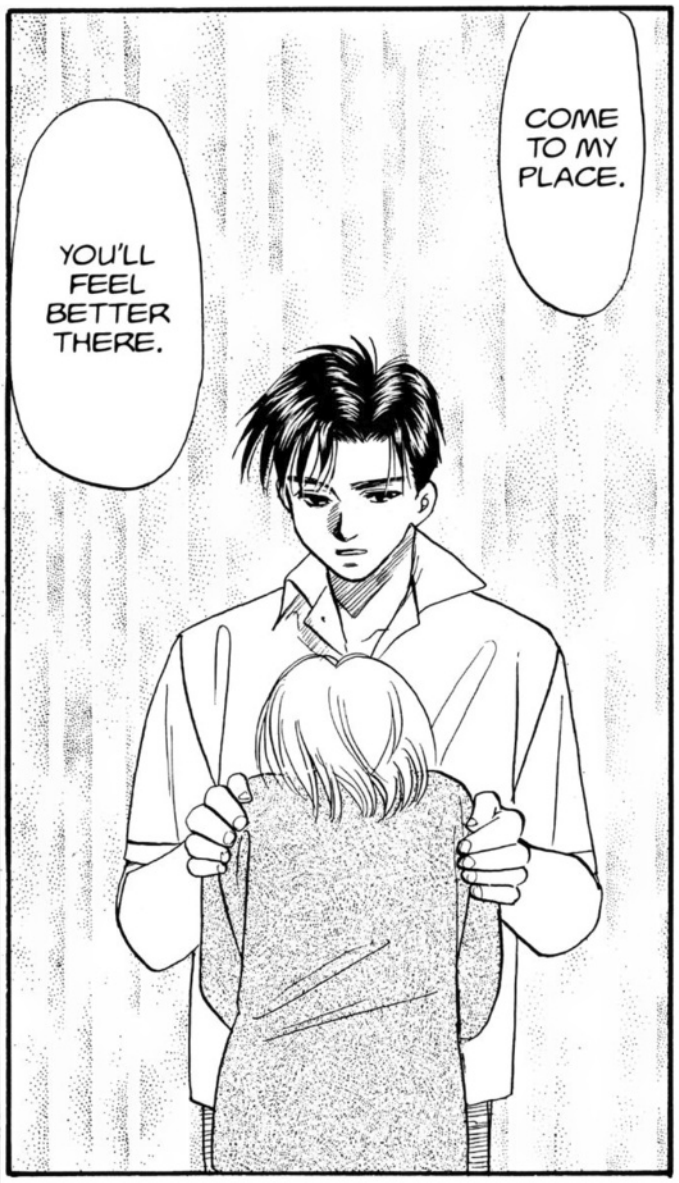
...
HFF

UNH...
OOH...

YU-KAKO.

IT WAS NO PLACE FOR A YOUNG GIRL TO BE LIVING.
NOW I UNDER-STOOD WHY SHE DIDN'T WANT ME TO WALK HER HOME.

OKAY?
I'M S-SORRY.


COME TO MY PLACE.
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER THERE.

TH-THANK YOU.
ぐーぐる
OH!

YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM APART-MENT 106.

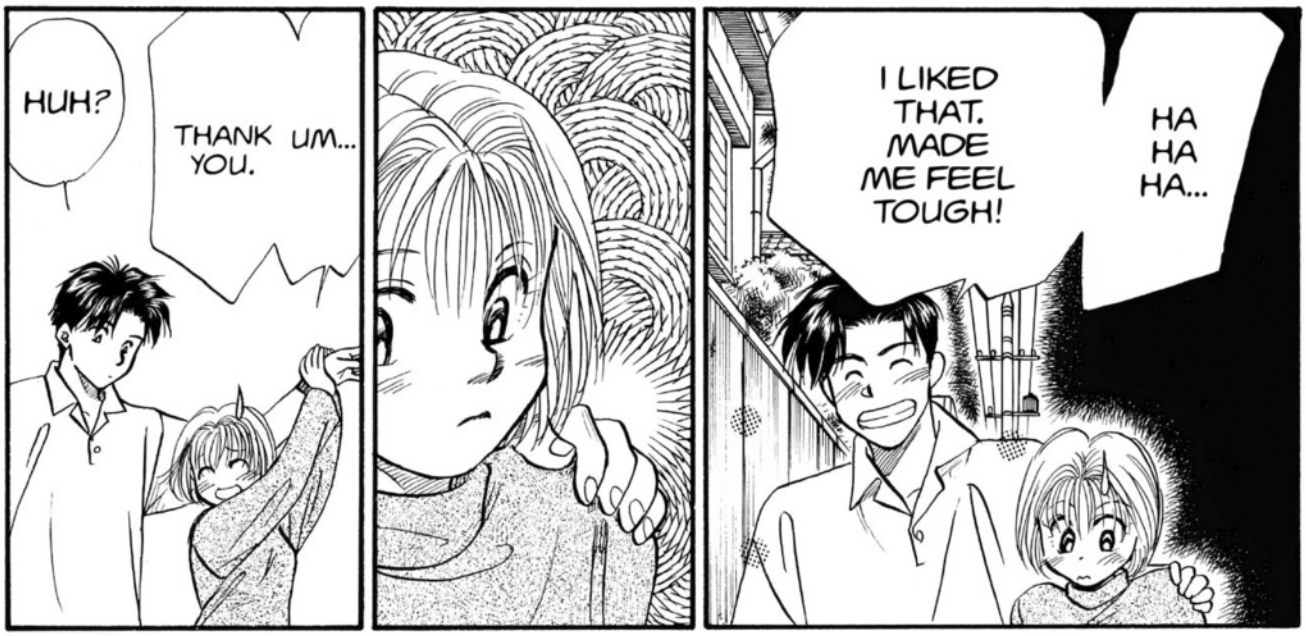
IT'S ME, TAKEI, FROM 201.
OH...
ISN'T IT KIND OF LATE TO BE OUT?
CAN I COME BY YOUR PLACE SOME-TIME?
I WON'T TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF.

WELL ...
GOTTA GO! BYE!
tmp
tmp
tmp
B-BYE.

WHAP
NO, YOU CAN'T!
HUH?

RATS. SHE'S GOT A BOY-FRIEND.
AND HE'S GOOD-LOOKING.
ARGH
ARGH

HEH.


HUH?
THANK YOU.
UM...

I LIKED THAT. MADE ME FEEL TOUGH!
HA HA HA...

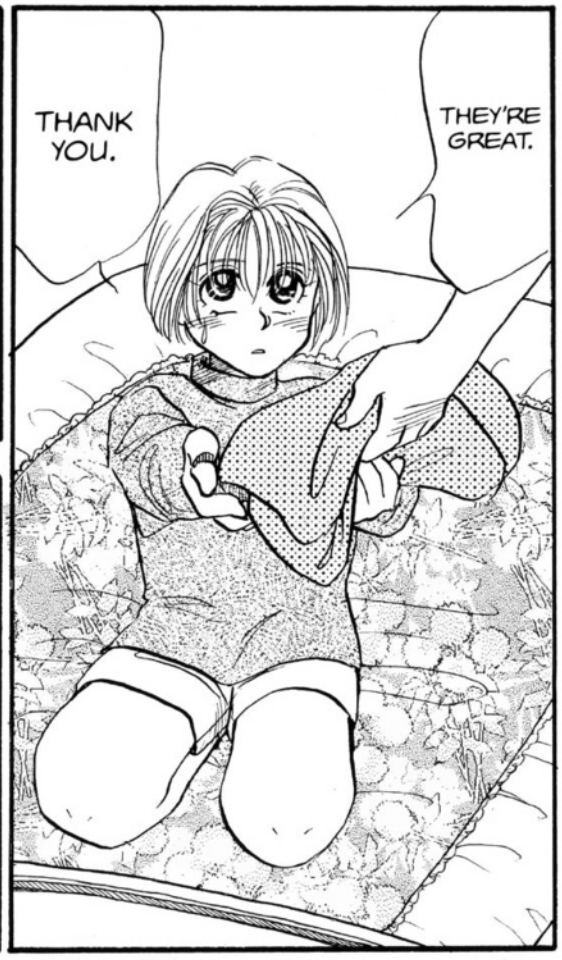
...I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE NICE.

WHEN I ASKED HER TO COME OVER...
HEH

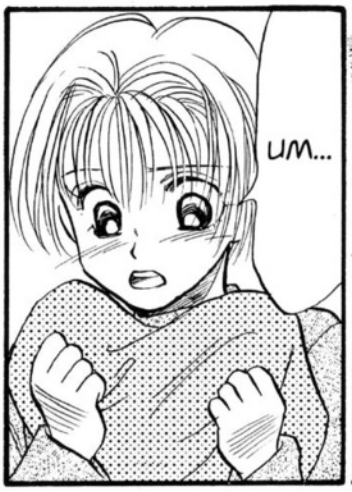
ARE THESE PAJA-MAS OKAY?
THEY BE-LONGED TO MY MOTHER.

HERE.
IT JUST SEEMED LIKE SHE NEEDED A LITTLE HELP.

SOMEONE SHOULD GET SOME USE OUT OF THEM.
OF COURSE.
YOUR MOTHER? ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?

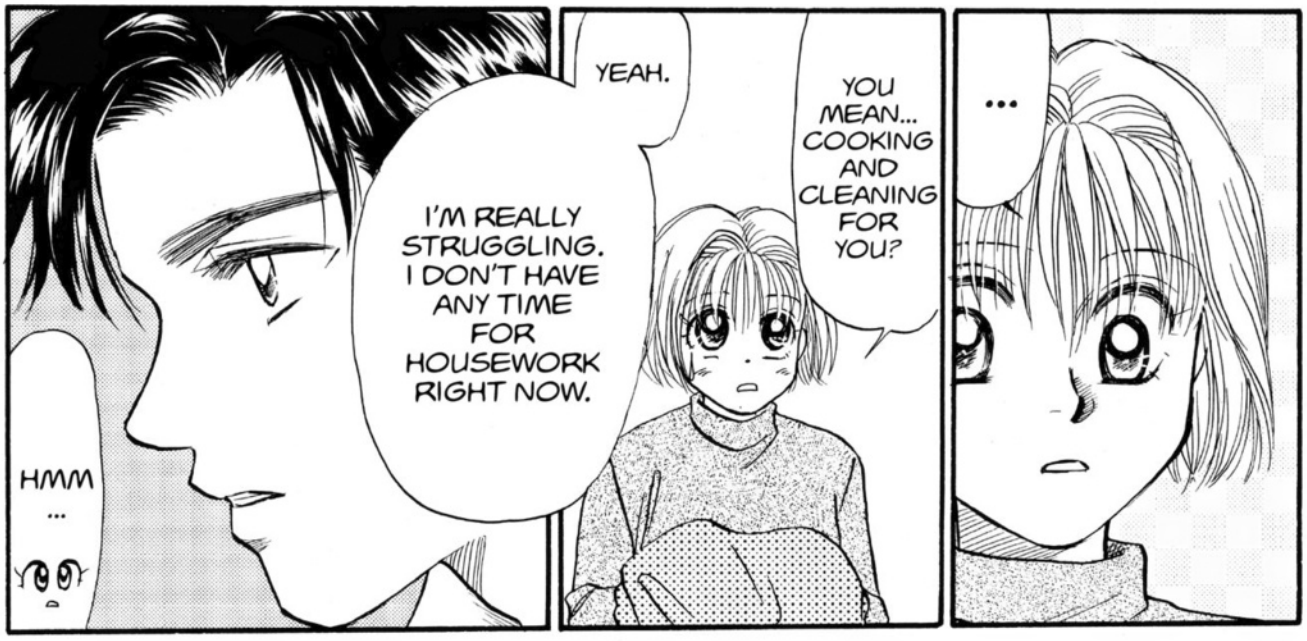

THANK YOU.
THEY'RE GREAT.

I FEEL A LOT BETTER.
I'LL GO HOME IN THE MORNING.
THANK YOU.


UM...

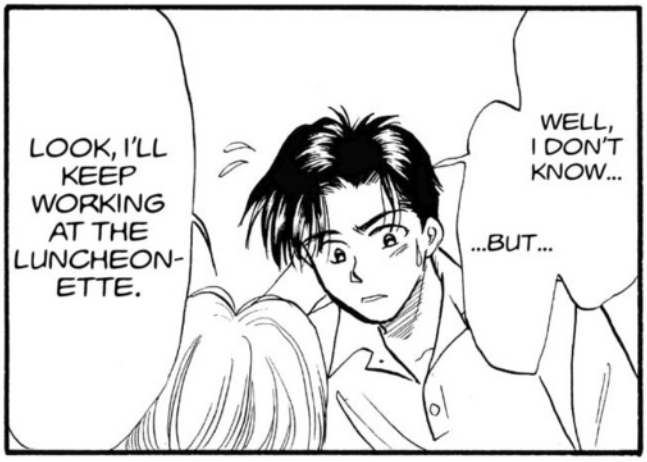
YES?
...I WAS THINKING...
WELL...

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A JOB AS MY HOUSE-KEEPER?


HMM ...
I'M REALLY STRUGGLING. I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME FOR HOUSEWORK RIGHT NOW.
YEAH.
YOU MEAN... COOKING AND CLEANING FOR YOU?
...

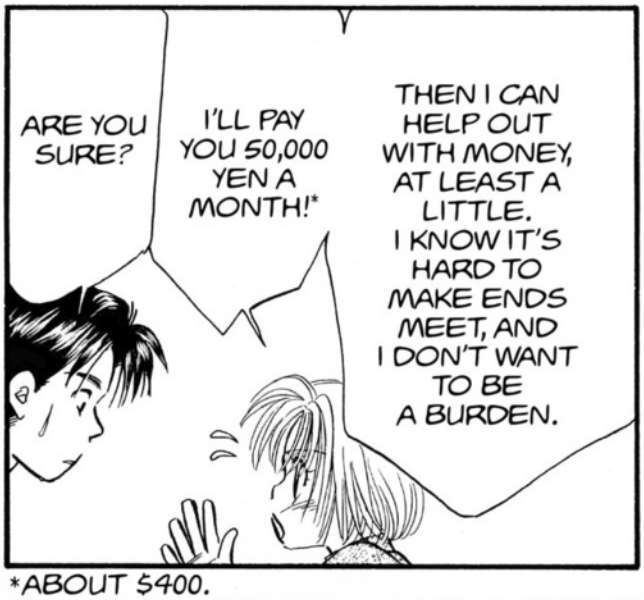
...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER, RIGHT?
HUH?
FOR HOW LONG?

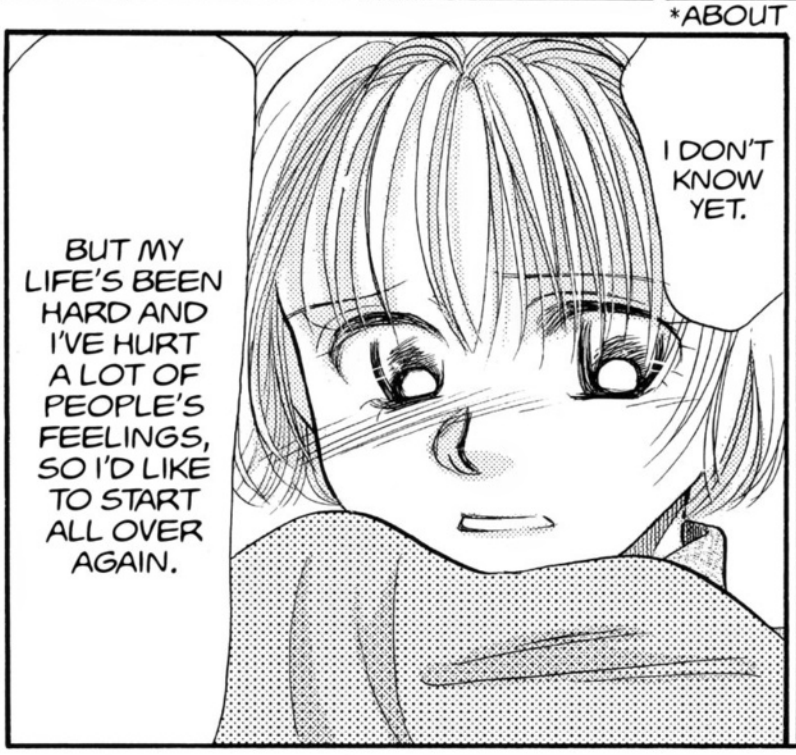

LOOK, I'LL KEEP WORKING AT THE LUNCHEON-ETTE.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT...

I CAN'T PAY YOU...
...BUT I'LL GIVE YOU FREE ROOM AND BOARD.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS ROOM NEXT TO THE LIVING ROOM.
MY ROOM'S UPSTAIRS, SO YOU'LL HAVE PRIVACY.

A MILLION YEN? WHY?
I'LL STAY HERE UNTIL I SAVE A MILLION YEN.
I WANT TO GO ABROAD.


ARE YOU SURE?
I'LL PAY YOU 50,000 YEN A MONTH!*
THEN I CAN HELP OUT WITH MONEY, AT LEAST A LITTLE. I KNOW IT'S HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN.

*ABOUT $400.


BUT MY LIFE'S BEEN HARD AND I'VE HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, SO I'D LIKE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN.
I DON'T KNOW YET.

I'M GOING TO TRAVEL. THEN I'LL START A NEW LIFE! AND THIS WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF IT!
WHAT?
TRAVEL? WHAT COUNTRY DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN STAY HERE.
GOOD.

ARE YOU CLOSE TO HAVING A MILLION YEN?
...
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HAVING A DREAM.
NO WAY.

I SEE.

IT'S A DEAL.

IT WAS NOTHING.

THIS IS GREAT !!

IT'S SPARKLING!

YUKAKO!

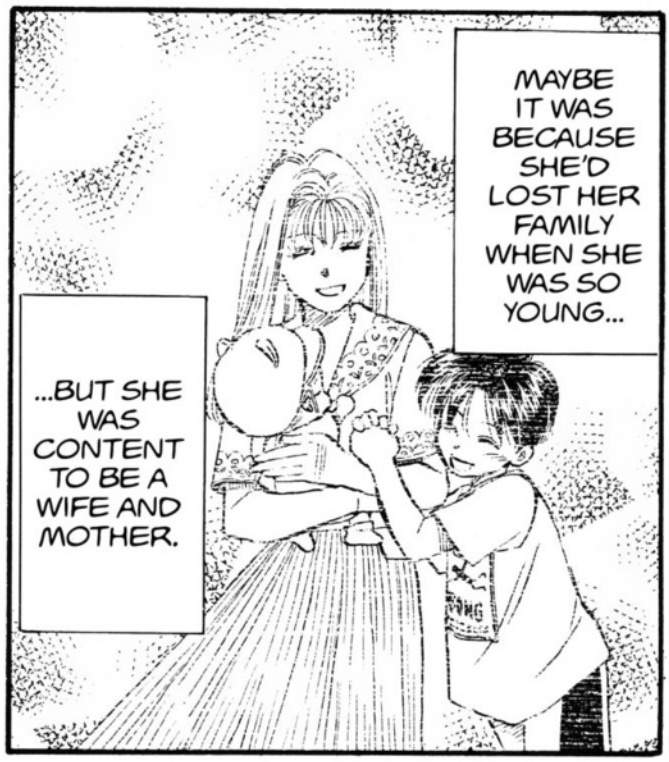
YUKAKO HAPPILY DID THE HOUSEWORK FOR ME, BUT...

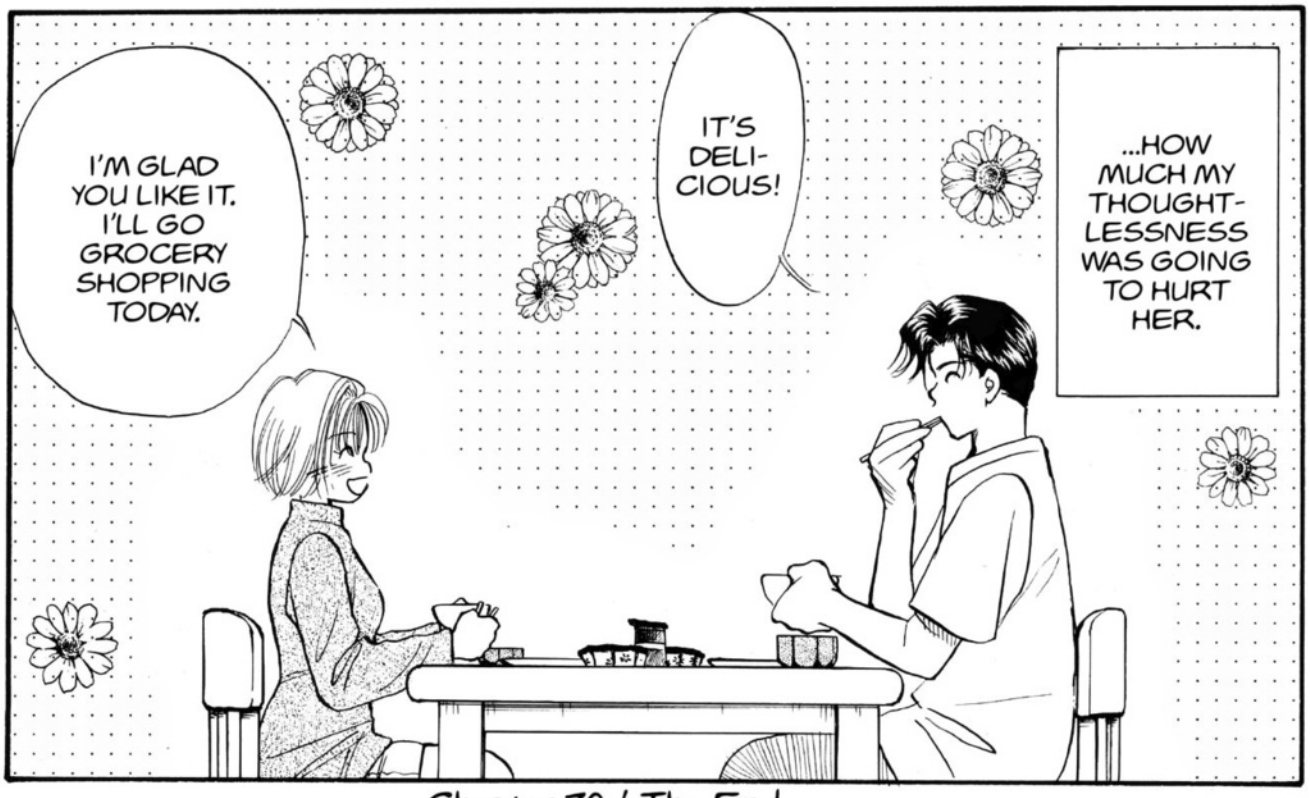
I'LL BRING MY STUFF FROM THE APARTMENT LITTLE BY LITTLE.

THE NEXT MORNING...

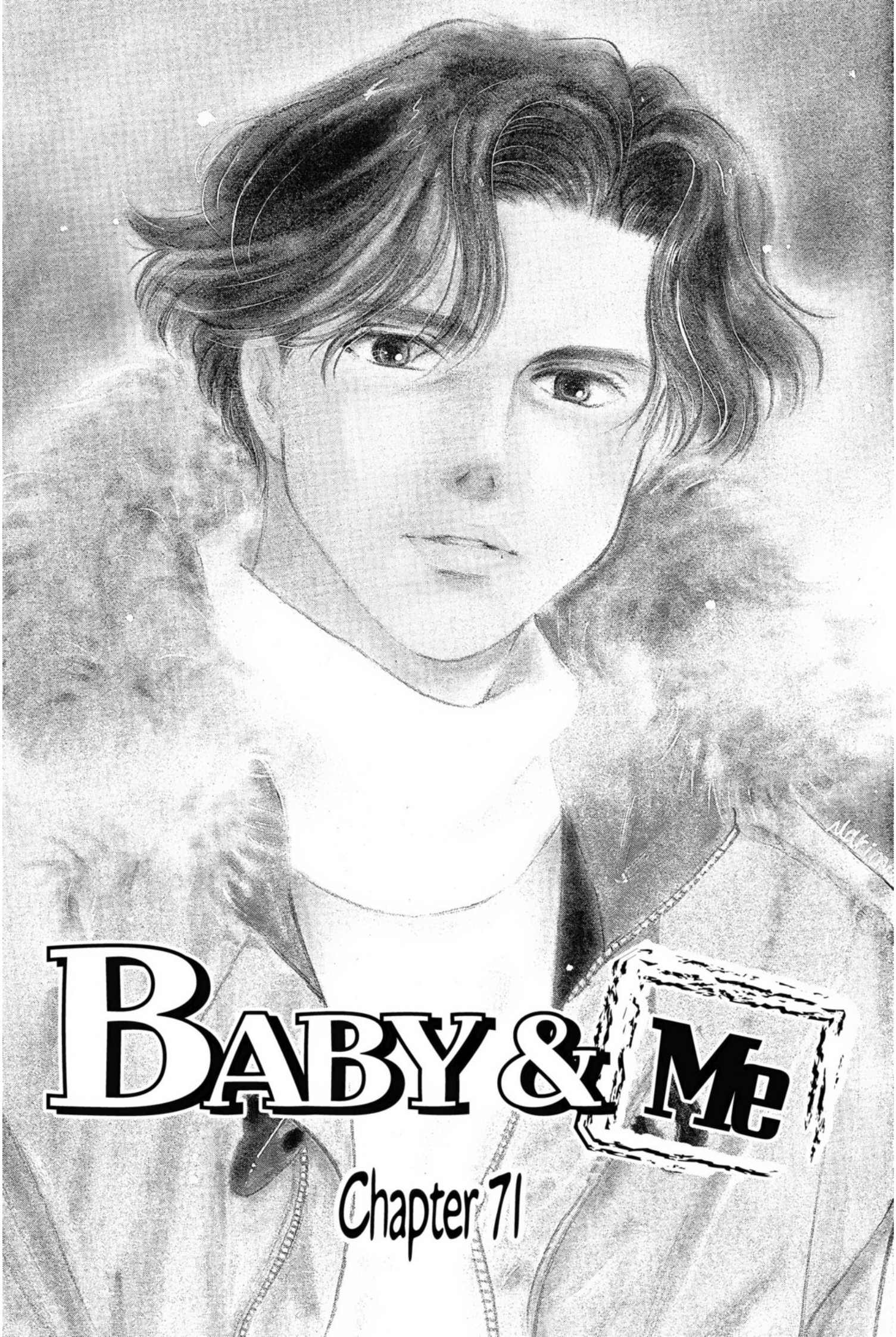
...YUKAKO ...

...CONJURED A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST OUT OF LEFTOVERS.





Chapter 70 / The End


BABY & Me
Chapter 71

YEAH!

SHE'S LIVING WITH YOU?

WHAT?

YUKAKO FROM THE LUNCHEONETTE?

SEPTEMBER, 13 YEARS AGO...

I NEED A BED TO SLEEP ON.

THEN GO HOME.

YOU START LIVING WITH A GIRL, AND RIGHT AWAY YOU WANT TO STAY OUT LATE.

SHE NEEDED A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE, AND I NEEDED HELP WITH THE HOUSEWORK.

WE'RE JUST HELPING EACH OTHER OUT.

WE'RE NOT REALLY LIVING TOGETHER.

RELAX, YUKI. IT'S FINE.

HARUMI, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

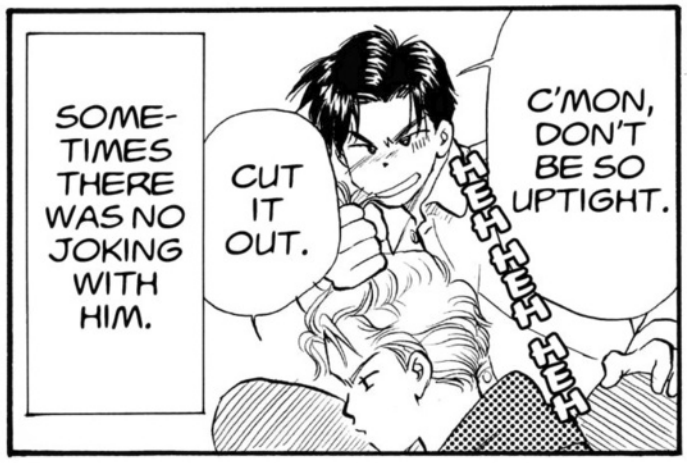
YOU CAN'T JUST MOVE IN TOGETHER LIKE THAT! IT'S NOT RIGHT!

WHAT A LIFE YOU HAVE!
...YOU CAN PLAY AROUND AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
THANKS TO HER...

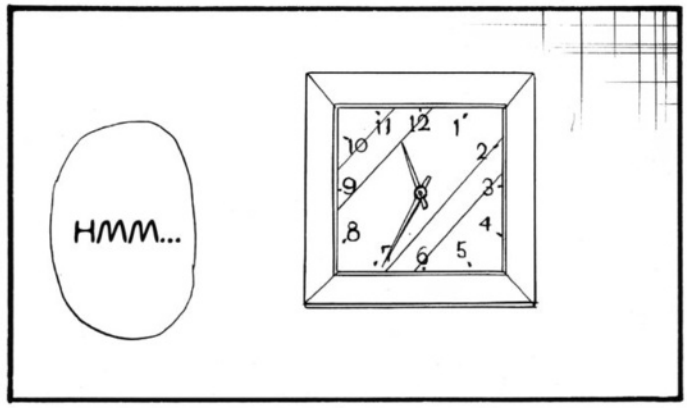
...THEN I'D HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO KUMANOI. BUT NOW, WITH HER THERE...
I'D BE EXHAUSTED AFTER CLASSES AND WORK...

I USED TO STAY HOME BECAUSE I HAD SO MUCH HOUSEWORK.
SHE'S THE REASON I'M ABLE TO STAY OUT.
THAT'S NOT IT.
HUH?

MY FRIEND YUKI ASAHI WAS A SENSIBLE GUY.
NOTHING.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

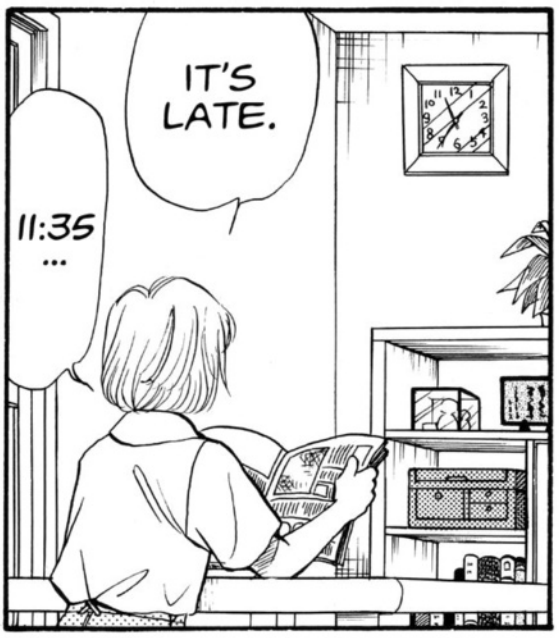

SOMETIMES THERE WAS NO JOKING WITH HIM.
CUT IT OUT.
C'MON, DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT.

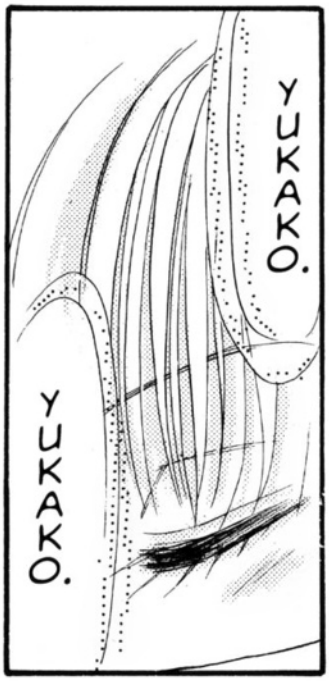
WHAT'S UP?
BUT SOMETIMES HE SEEMED TO THINK...
...I WAS JUST A STUPID KID.


HMM...

ISN'T HE COMING HOME TO-NIGHT?

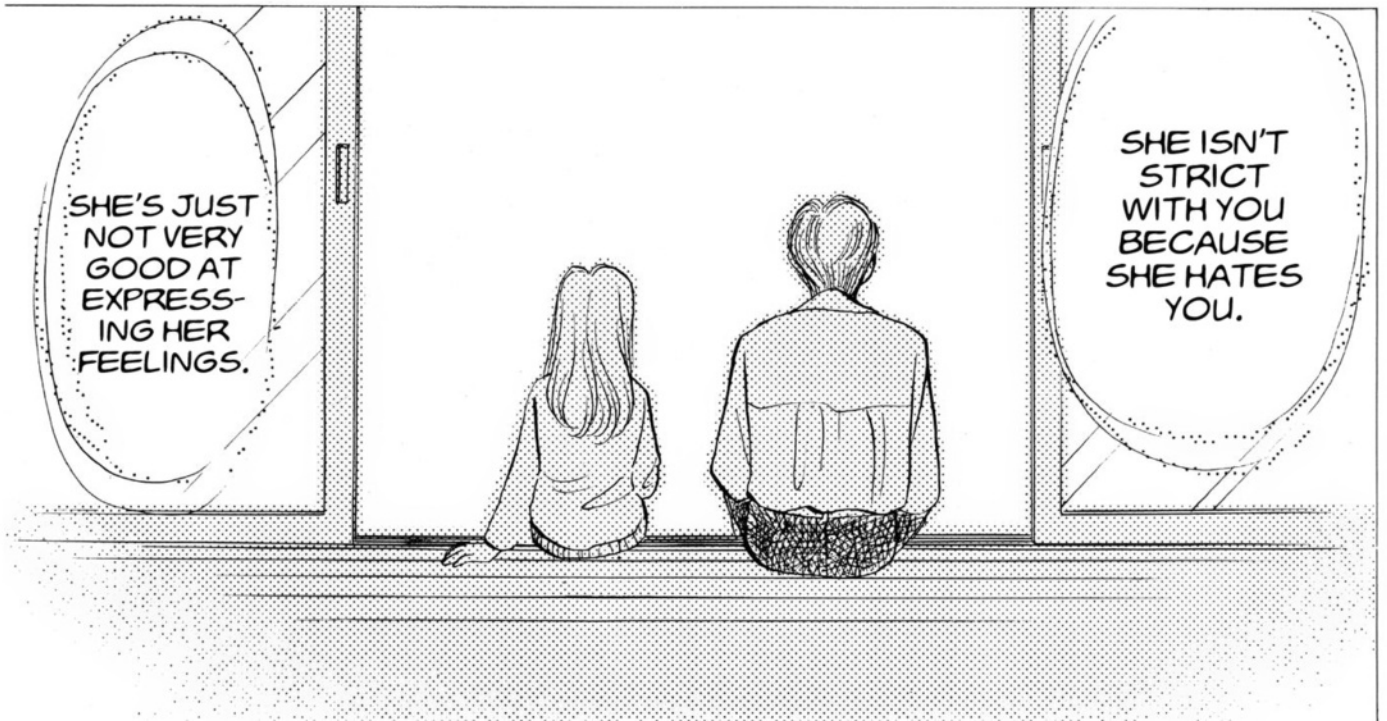
WHAT'S HE DOING?

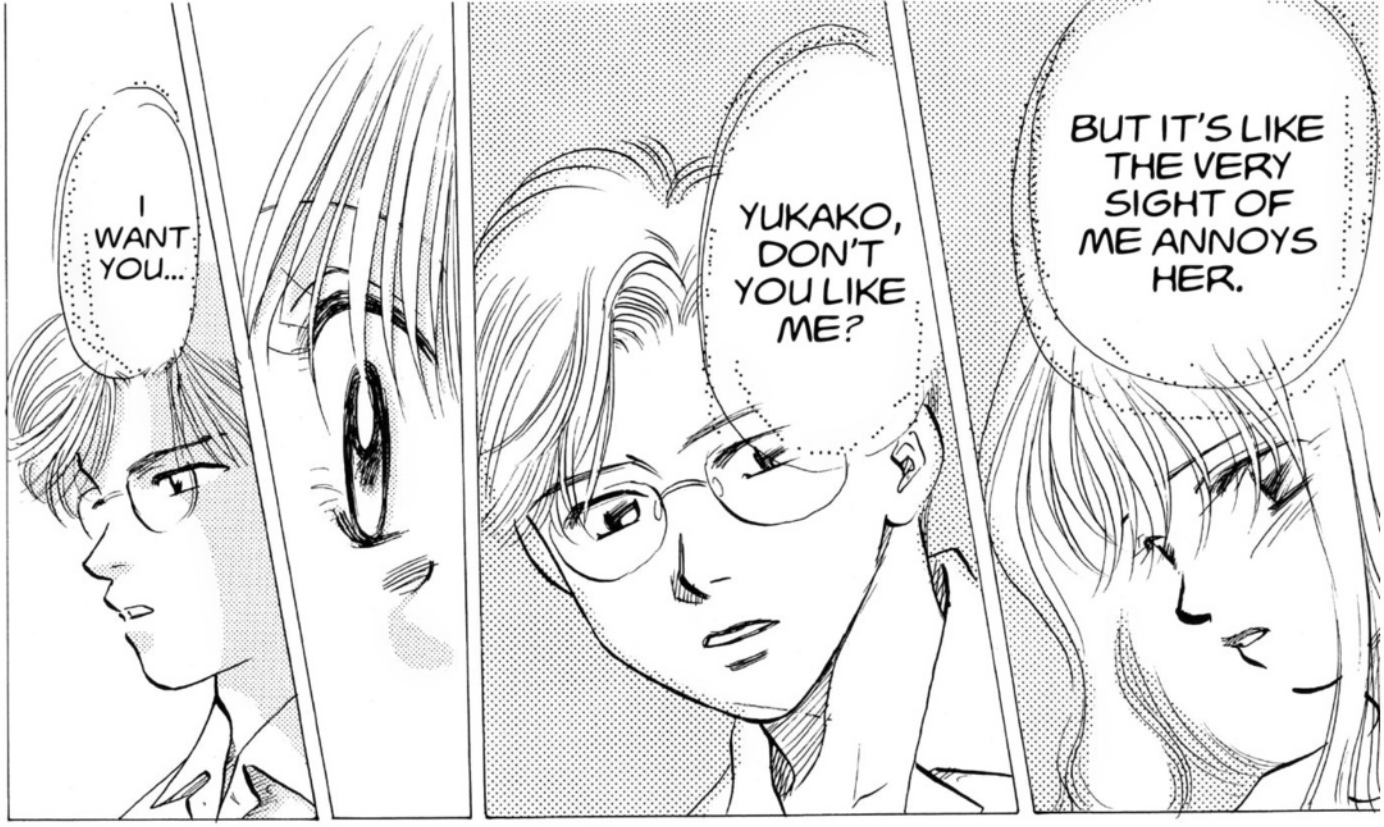

IT'S LATE.
11:35 ...

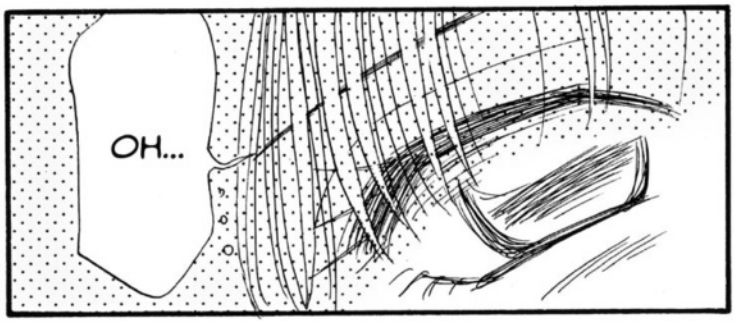

YUKAKO.
YUKAKO.

WHEN HE COMES HOME I'LL...HEAT UP...THE MISO... SOUP...

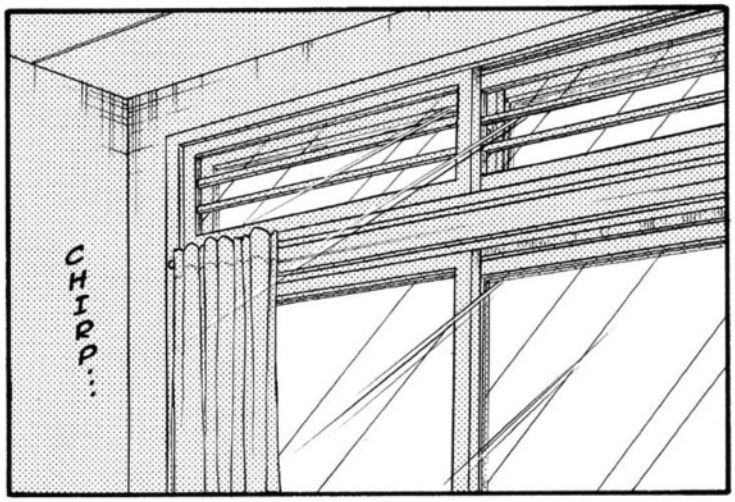
HE DIDN'T CALL TO TELL ME HE WASN'T COMING HOME TONIGHT.
THERE'S STILL ONE MORE TRAIN.
WOMEN'S SELF

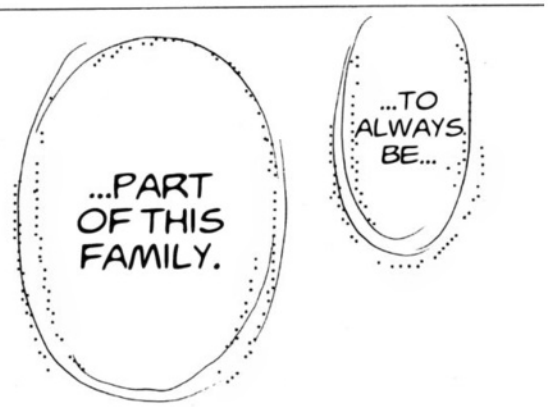

SHE'S JUST NOT VERY GOOD AT EXPRESS-ING HER FEELINGS.
SHE ISN'T STRICT WITH YOU BECAUSE SHE HATES YOU.

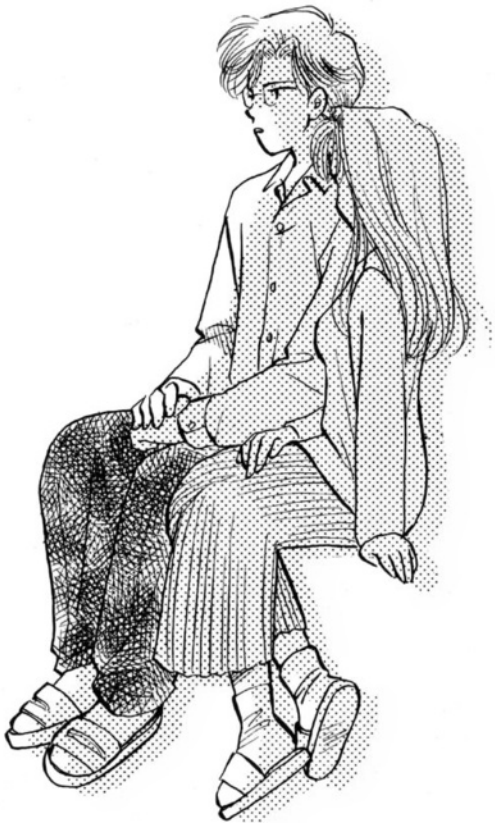

I WANT YOU...
YUKAKO, DON'T YOU LIKE ME?
BUT IT'S LIKE THE VERY SIGHT OF ME ANNOYS HER.


OH...

CHIRP
CHIRP

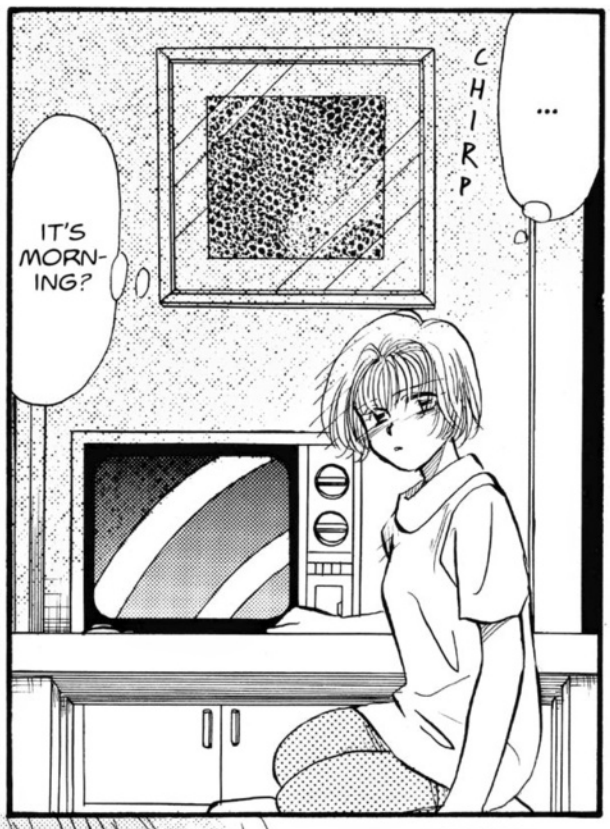

CHIRP...


...TO ALWAYS BE...
...PART OF THIS FAMILY.



AKIRA ...
I'M SORRY I HURT YOU.
UNCLE, AUNTIE...
SOB ...

HE DIDN'T COME HOME.
SELF


...
CHIRP
IT'S MORNING?

WHY DIDN'T YOU COME HOME?
HARUMI, YOU JERK.

ENOKI!
DON'T YOU HAVE TO WORK TODAY?
NUNN

...THE DINNER I MADE.
I WANTED YOU TO EAT...
WOMEN'S SELF

NO.
I'VE GOT THE DAY OFF.
THEN COME HAVE A DRINK WITH US.
PLEASE! ♡
ALL RIGHT.
BOOM
YOU WILL?
HE DIDN'T SAY NO?
YAY!
WE ALWAYS SAY YES!
AAAH!! WHY DO YOU GUYS ALWAYS SHOW UP?
TMP TMP TMP
THUMP
THUMP
ENOKI!
YOU...
...CAN'T KEEP ALL THE WOMEN TO YOURSELF!
YOU GUYS CAN COME TOO IF YOU WANT!
WHEN I THINK BACK...
...I'M EMBARRASSED AT HOW CHILDISH ...
...AND SELFISH I WAS THEN.

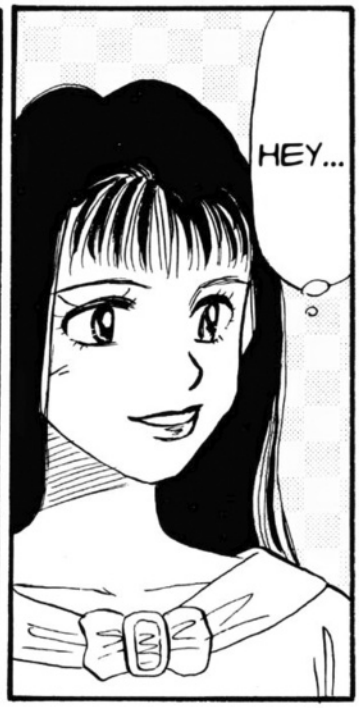
Author's Note Part 3

Marimo Ragawa's Let Me Draw What I Want!

By Request

Disguise #2

Nanami Takenaka in a Sailor Suit



I DON'T REMEMBER HER NAME.

I HEARD SHE WAS IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENT.

I SEE THE WAY YOU TWO ARE LOOKING AT EACH OTHER, YOU NAUGHTY BOY!

NAUGHTY?

SHIZG

BIDMP

SHIZG

HELLO, UM...

...ENOKI RESIDENCE.

KLAK

RING

RING

...

I'M NOT COMING HOME TONIGHT!

WUZZ

WUZZ

UM...

HOW YOU BEEN?

WHAT TIME ARE YOU COMING HOME TONIGHT?

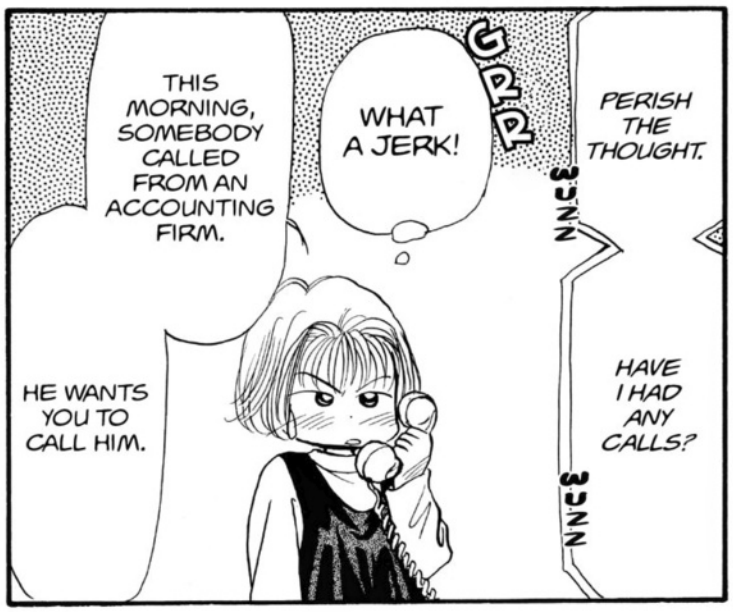
WUZZ

WUZZ

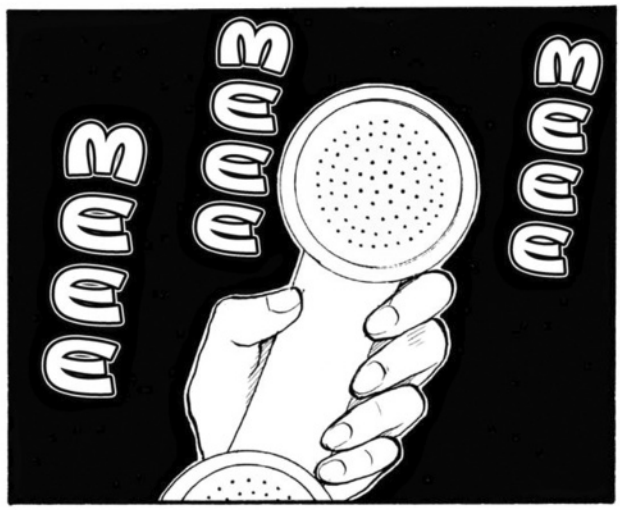
HARUMI?

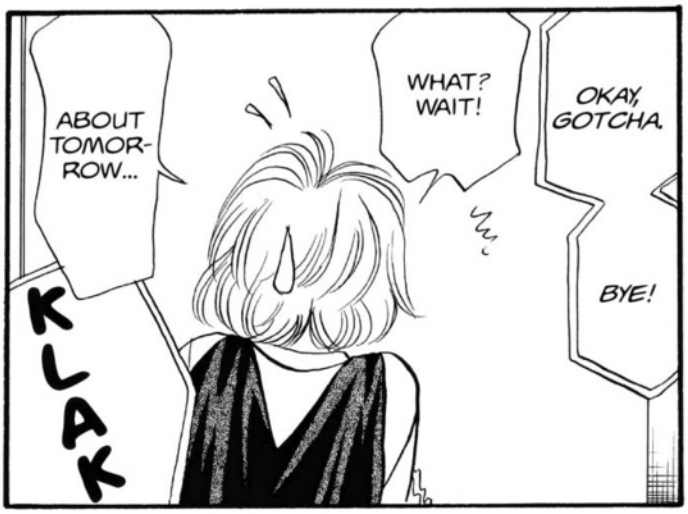
YUKAKO?

IT'S ME!


THIS MORNING, SOMEBODY CALLED FROM AN ACCOUNTING FIRM.
HE WANTS YOU TO CALL HIM.
WHAT A JERK!
GRR
PERISH THE THOUGHT.
HAVE I HAD ANY CALLS?
BUNN
BUNN
BUNN

YOU'RE DRUNK.
WHAT? NO, I'M NOT DRUNK.
BUNN
BUNN


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

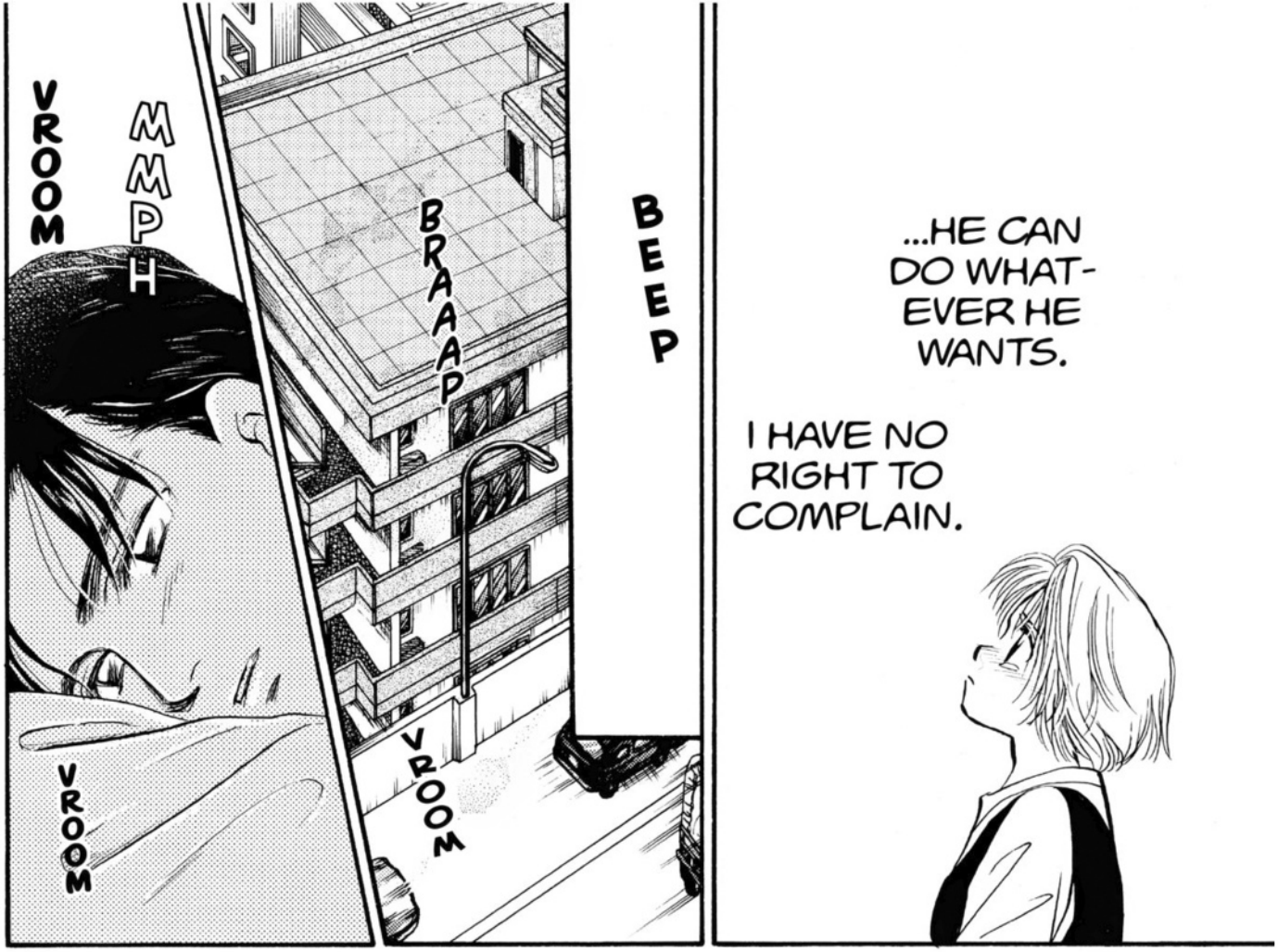

ABOUT TOMOR-ROW...
KLAK
WHAT? WAIT!
OKAY, GOTCHA.
BYE!

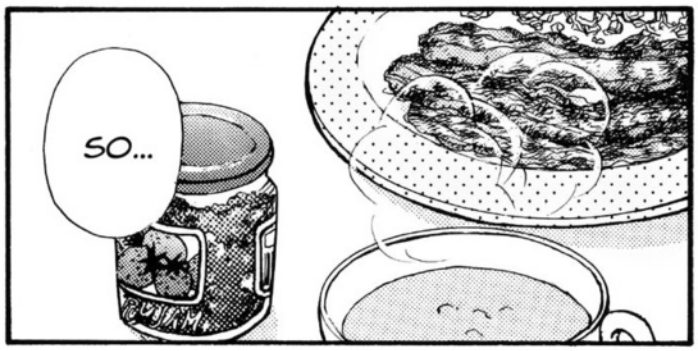
BUT...
HMPH.

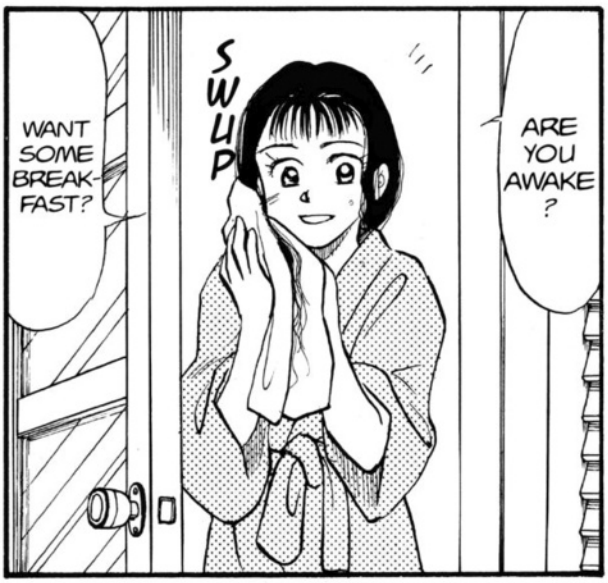
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL SOONER?
I MADE DINNER FOR YOU!

HARUMI!!
YOU IDIOT!!

BMP
BMP
BMP


VROOM
MMPH
VROOM
BRAAAP
VROOM
BEEP
...HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE WANTS.
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.


SO...


WANT SOME BREAKFAST?
SWUP
ARE YOU AWAKE?

YEAH.
I HEARD YOU LOST YOUR PARENTS.
HUH?
...WHAT DO YOU DO FOR MEALS?
KRNCH

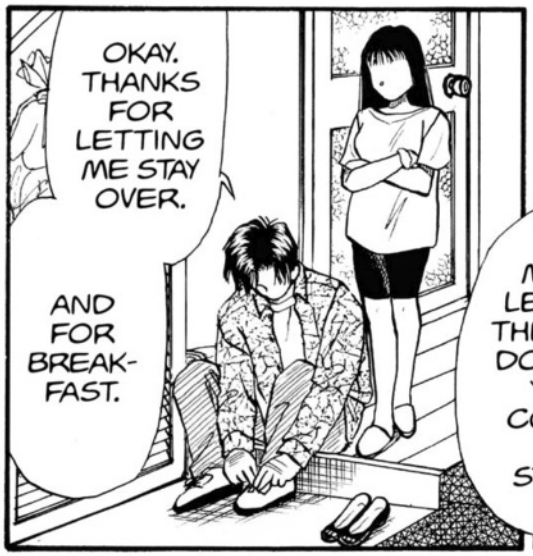
VROOM
HUH?
IT'S NOISY AROUND HERE.
THE HIGHWAY'S RIGHT ABOVE US.

YOU DO?
THAT'S BASICALLY TRUE, RIGHT?
I HAVE... A HOUSE-KEEPER.

...

TWINKLE
IS THERE SOME-ONE WHO COOKS FOR YOU?

HUH?
UM, LISTEN ...


OKAY. THANKS FOR LETTING ME STAY OVER.
AND FOR BREAK-FAST.

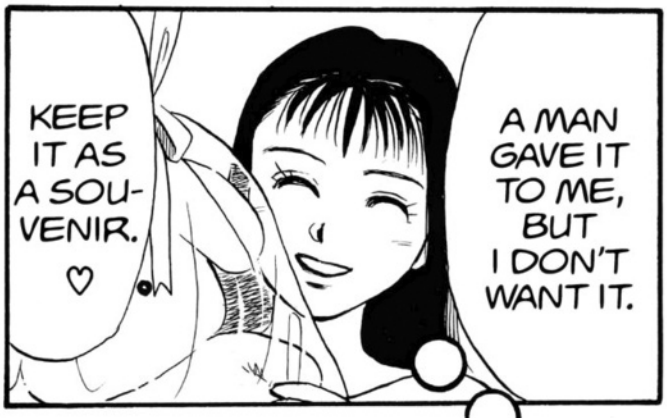
MAKE A LEFT OUT THE FRONT DOOR AND YOU'LL COME TO THE STATION.

THAT'S OKAY.
HUH? WHAT FOR?
WAIT. TAKE THIS WITH YOU.

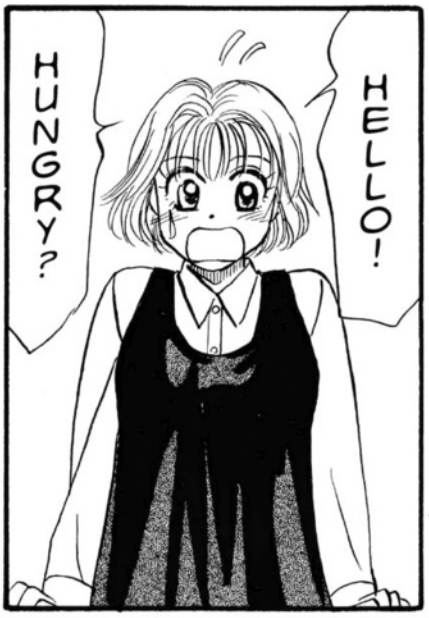
OH.
WHY'S SHE TELLING ME THIS?

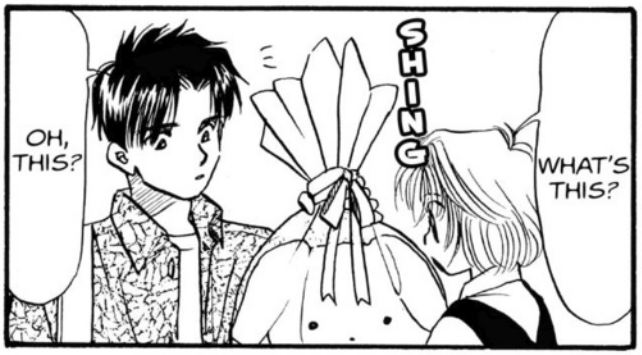
...I SORT OF HAVE A BOY-FRIEND.
TWINKLE
JUST SO YOU KNOW...

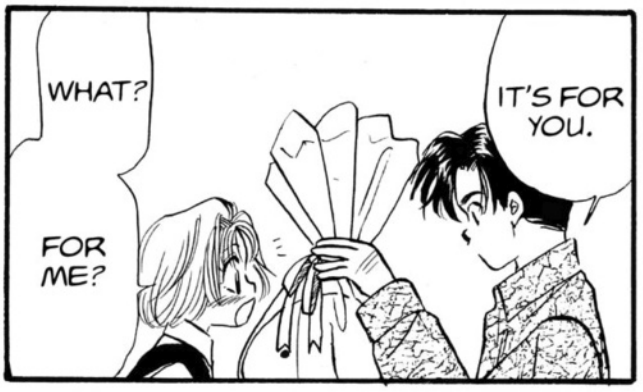
SHWUFF
I'M HOME!
...I WANTED TO FORGET.
THE STUFFED ANIMAL WAS A REMINDER OF SOMETHING...


A MAN GAVE IT TO ME, BUT I DON'T WANT IT.
KEEP IT AS A SOUVENIR. ♡

WEIRD.
HMPH
A SOUVENIR?
I DON'T WANT IT.
UGH.
WHAT THE HECK WAS SHE THINKING?


HELLO!
HUNGRY?


OH, THIS?
SHING
WHAT'S THIS?


WHAT?
FOR ME?
IT'S FOR YOU.

NO THANKS. I ALREADY ATE.
WHAT?
YOU'RE A NICE GIRL.
SWUFF
SWUFF
AFTER LAST NIGHT, IT'S REFRESHING.

THANK YOU.

...

YEAH.

HUH?

♬
WHY DO I FEEL GUILTY?
ZING
ZING

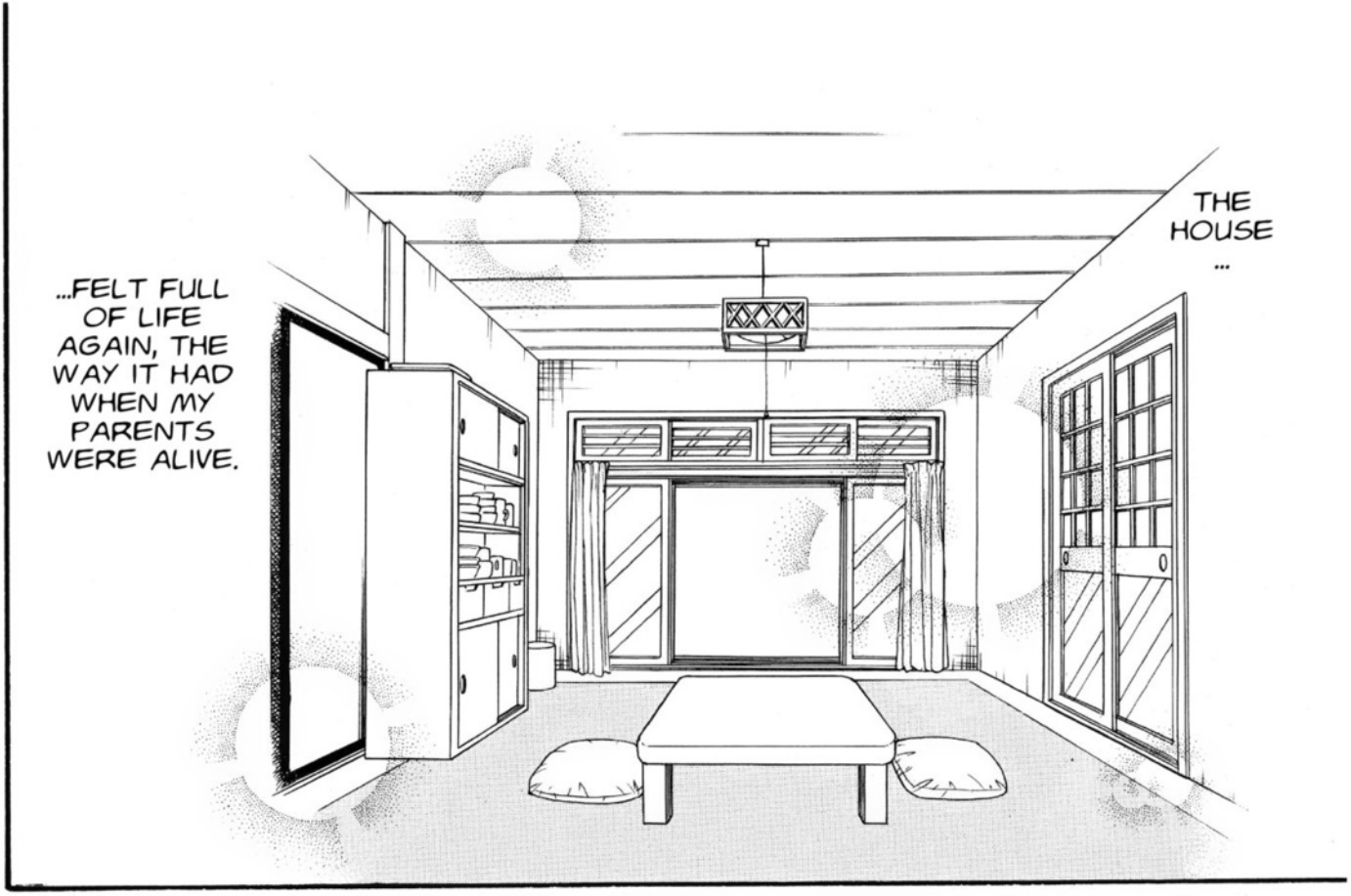
I MADE IT FOR YOU.
...

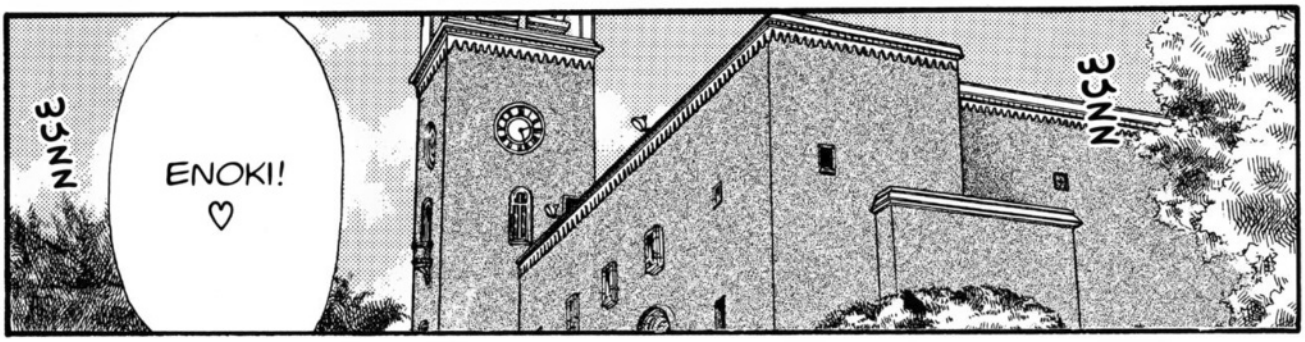
IT'S LEFT-OVERS FROM LAST NIGHT.
KIND OF A HEAVY BREAK-FAST.
Whoa.

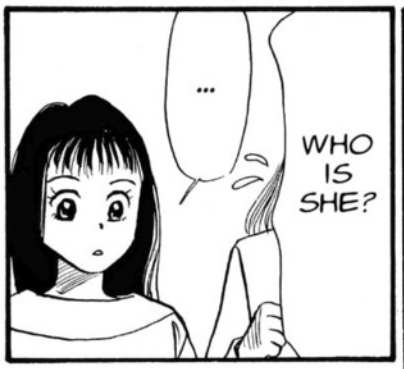
BREAK-FAST. I OVER-SLEPT.
IS THIS BREAK-FAST OR LUNCH?
It's 11:30.
YOU WERE EATING?

WHAT?
YOU DID? I'M SORRY.
OH WELL. I CAN'T HELP GETTING A LITTLE UPSET SOME-TIMES.
?
HMPH
HMPH
WELL...
...I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO RIGHT NOW.
SHALL WE...
...GO GET YOUR STUFF?
OKAY!
EVEN THEN...
...THERE WAS NO VISIBLE CHANGE IN OUR RELA-TIONSHIP.
BUT ...
YUKAKO TOLD ME LATER THAT...
... AROUND THAT TIME...

...AND SHE HAD A HARD TIME HIDING IT.
IT WASN'T LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, BUT IT WAS STEADILY GROWING...
OH YEAH?
...SHE WAS BEGINNING...
SHE CON-TINUED TO DO THE HOUSE-WORK...
ALL RIGHT. HERE'S 10,000 YEN.
THERE'S NO MORE FOOD MONEY.
BUT I WAS OBLI-VIOUS.
...LIKE NOTHING HAD CHANGED.
IT WAS A REAL RELIEF TO ME.
...WASH THE DISHES...
...AND FOLD THE LAUN-DRY...
...TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME, EVEN THOUGH I WAS A JERK.


...FELT FULL OF LIFE AGAIN, THE WAY IT HAD WHEN MY PARENTS WERE ALIVE.
THE HOUSE ...


ENOKI! ♡
ZZNN
ZZNN

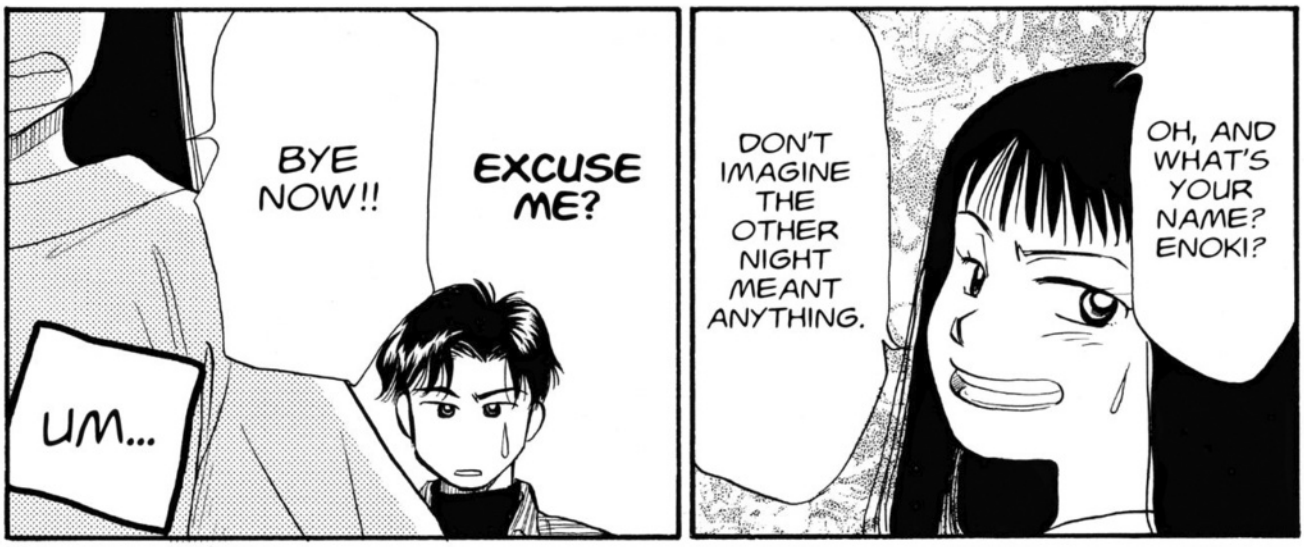

...
WHO IS SHE?

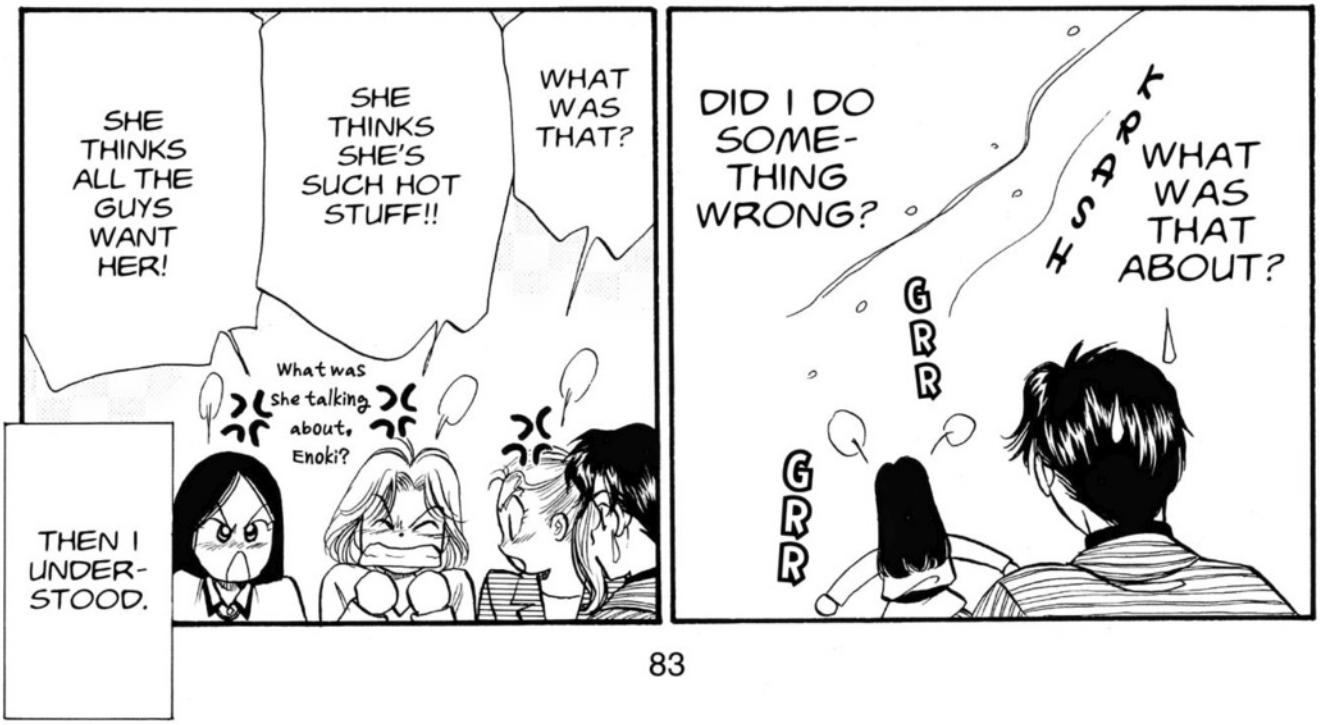
C'MON! TALK!!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

BUT WHO WAS THAT GIRL WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE?
I KNOW.
I DIDN'T GO HOME YESTERDAY.
ZZNN
WHAT? A GIRL?
ZZNN

HEE HEE HEE...I CALLED YOUR HOUSE YESTERDAY!
YEAH?

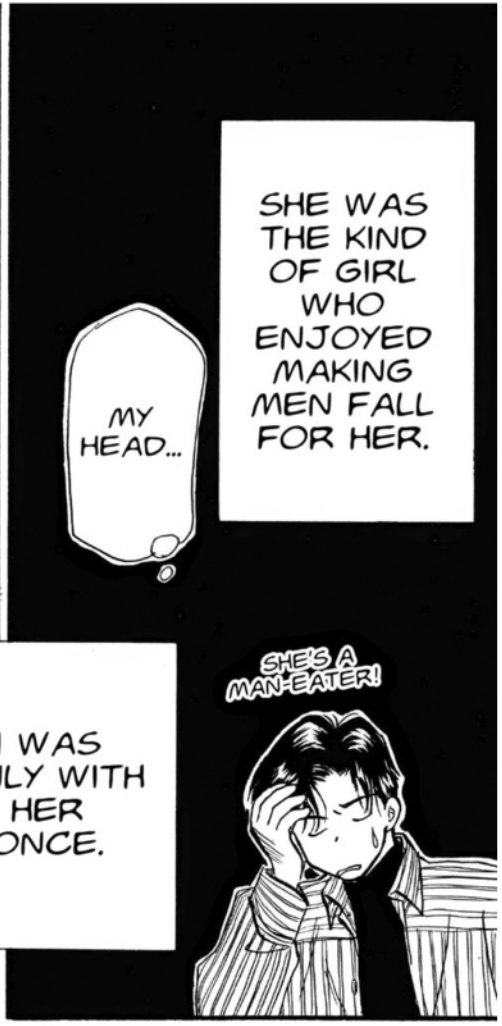
TOMP
OH!
BEATS ME.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
I'M GONNA GO HAVE SOME FUN.
MEN ARE PIGS!
HMPH!
GEEZ!!

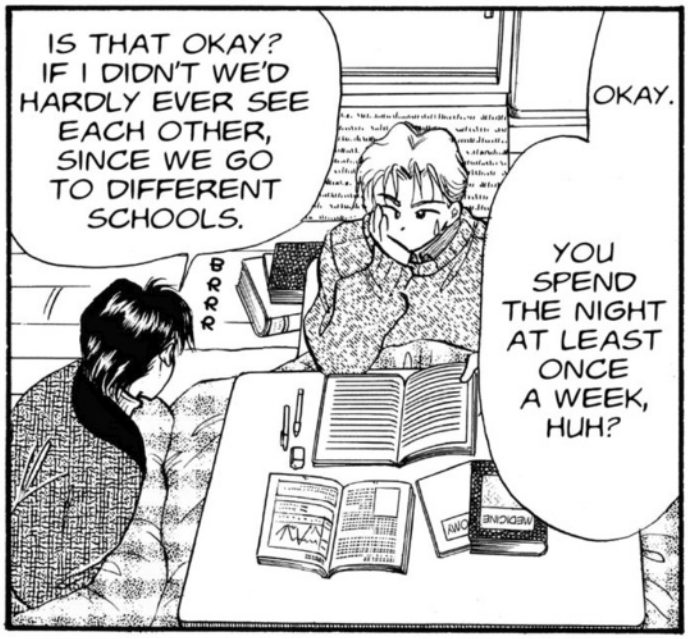

UM...
BYE NOW!!
EXCUSE ME?
DON'T IMAGINE THE OTHER NIGHT MEANT ANYTHING.
OH, AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME? ENOKI?

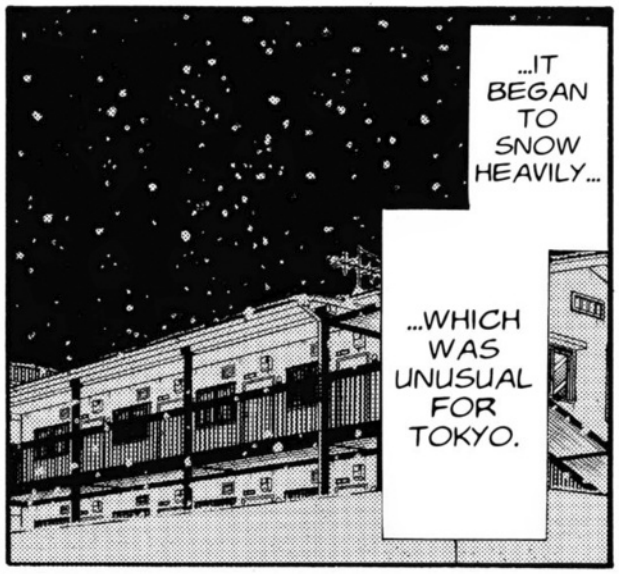

SHE THINKS ALL THE GUYS WANT HER!
SHE THINKS SHE'S SUCH HOT STUFF!!
WHAT WAS THAT?
What was she talking about, Enoki?
THEN I UNDERSTOOD.
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
GRR
GRR
HSARK
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

THEN, IN DECEMBER...
...STAYING OUT A LOT.

I KEPT ...
THAT'S HOW IT WENT THAT WHOLE FALL.


I WAS ONLY WITH HER ONCE.
MY HEAD...
SHE WAS THE KIND OF GIRL WHO ENJOYED MAKING MEN FALL FOR HER.
SHE'S A MAN-EATER!


IS THAT OKAY? IF I DIDN'T WE'D HARDLY EVER SEE EACH OTHER, SINCE WE GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS.
BRRR
OKAY.
YOU SPEND THE NIGHT AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK, HUH?


...IT BEGAN TO SNOW HEAVILY...
...WHICH WAS UNUSUAL FOR TOKYO.

PRE-MED MUST BE BRUTAL.
LET ME SEE.
YOU SURE STUDY A LOT.

I'M GONNA BORROW THIS PADDED JACKET.
YUKI?

THAT'S A WASTE OF MONEY! COOK SOME-THING!!
LET'S JUST HIT A CONVE-NIENCE STORE.

...YOU CAN COOK DINNER TONIGHT.
BY THE WAY, SINCE YOU'RE SLEEPING HERE...
WHAT?

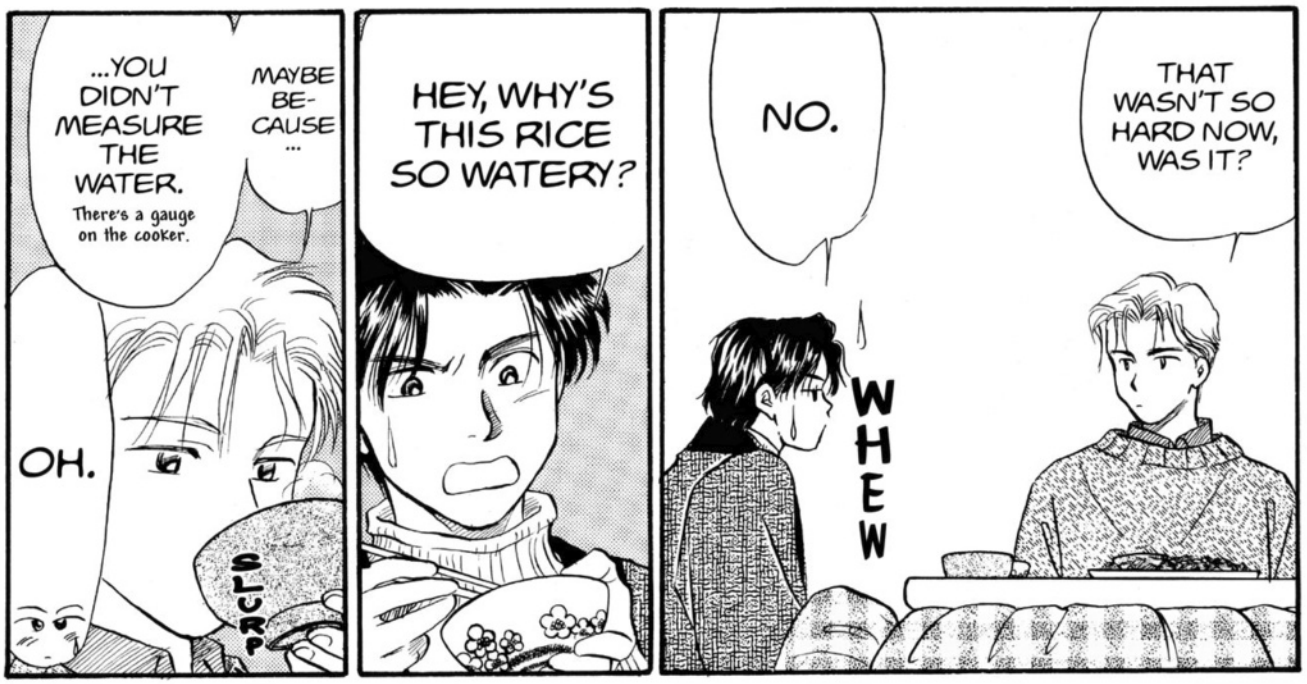
WHAT'S THIS? A HEART?
OF COURSE. WE'RE EXPECTED TO HAVE BRAINS.
IT'S ALL GIB-BERISH TO ME.
YEAH.

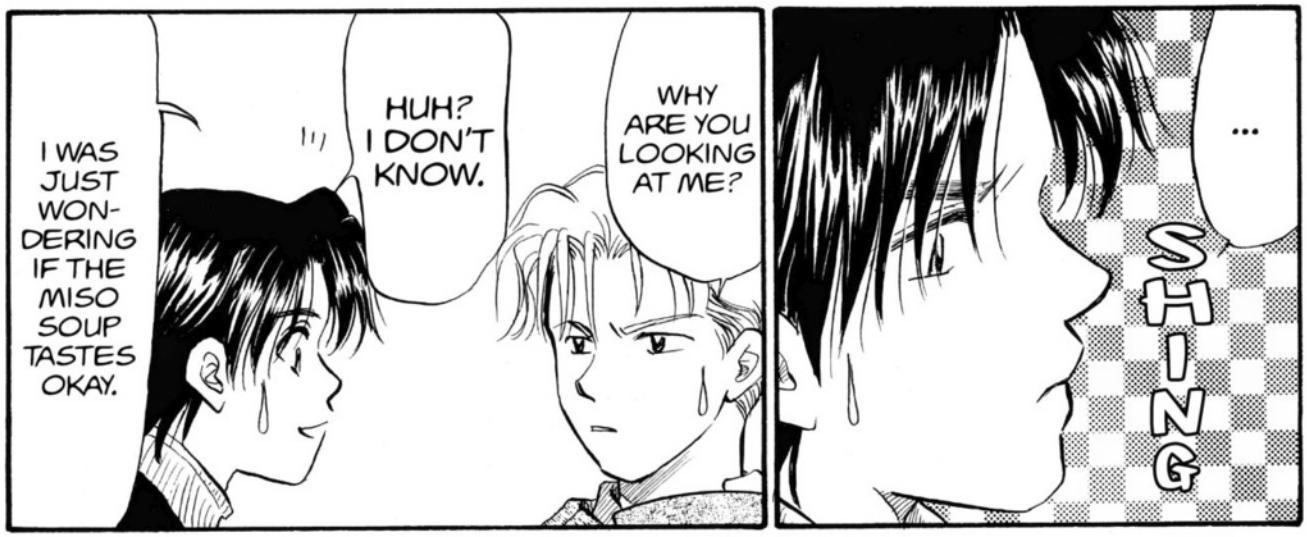
N... NOTH-ING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
YUKI HAD MADE HIS POINT.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? YUKAKO COOKS FOR YOU EVERY DAY.
CRUD!

TA-DAA

HE WAS GOOD AT THAT.
HE ALWAYS KNEW HOW TO GET TO ME.
DUMMY.


...YOU DIDN'T MEASURE THE WATER.
There's a gauge on the cooker.
MAYBE BE-CAUSE ...
OH.
SLURP
HEY, WHY'S THIS RICE SO WATERY?
NO.
WHEW
THAT WASN'T SO HARD NOW, WAS IT?


I WAS JUST WON-DERING IF THE MISO SOUP TASTES OKAY.
HUH? I DON'T KNOW.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
...
SHING

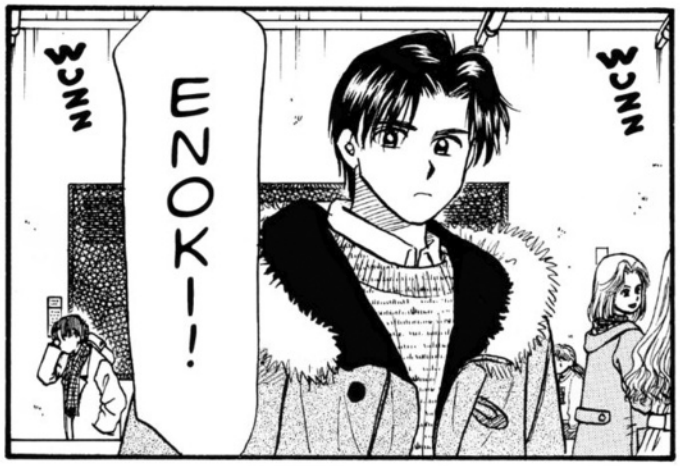
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'LL ADD SOME HOT WATER.
YOU'RE RIGHT. TOO SALTY.
SLURP
REALLY?
IT'S A LITTLE SALTY.

I WAS STUNG.
...
ZING
NEVER MIND. IT'S EDIBLE.
SLURP
BUT I OVER-COOKED THE VEGGIES AND TOFU.
I THINK THAT'S BETTER.
WAS THAT WHAT WAS YUKI TRYING TO TELL ME?
HMPH.
IT DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT.
I KEPT THINKING ABOUT YUKAKO... THE WAY SHE NEVER COMPLAINED WHEN I DIDN'T COME HOME AT NIGHT.
...YOU JERK.
ENOKI ...
I MAY NEVER KNOW.
I NEVER GOT AROUND TO ASKING YUKI ABOUT THAT NIGHT...
...AND A FEW YEARS LATER, I LOST TOUCH WITH HIM.
ALL THE FOOD ON THAT TABLE TASTED TERRIBLE.
BUT YUKI AND I ATE EVERY BIT OF IT.
I THOUGHT OF ALL THE DINNERS YUKAKO HAD COOKED FOR ME...
...AND FELT BAD.

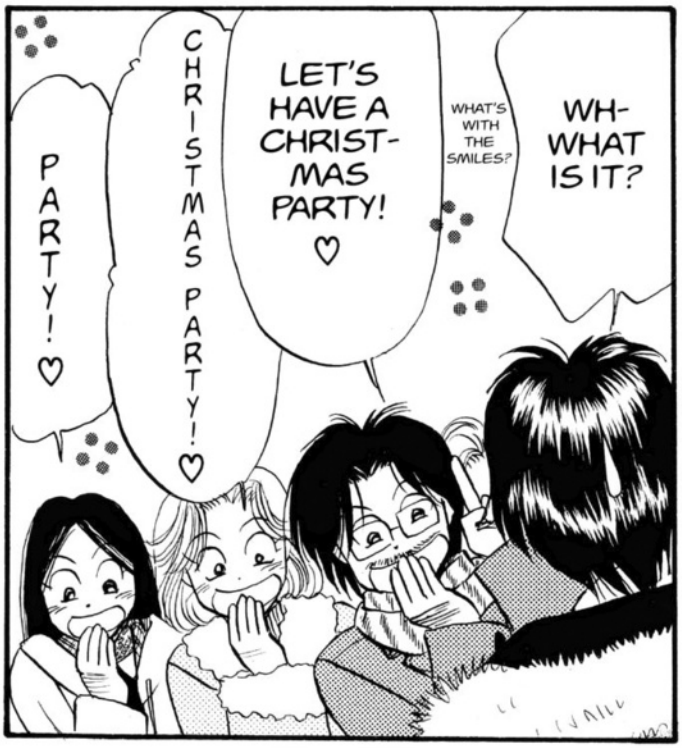
BYE.
BYE.
...I BEGAN TO CALL YUKAKO WHENEVER I WAS GOING TO MISS DINNER.

OKAY. THANK YOU.
I'LL BE OUT LATE TONIGHT, SO DON'T MAKE DINNER FOR ME, OKAY?

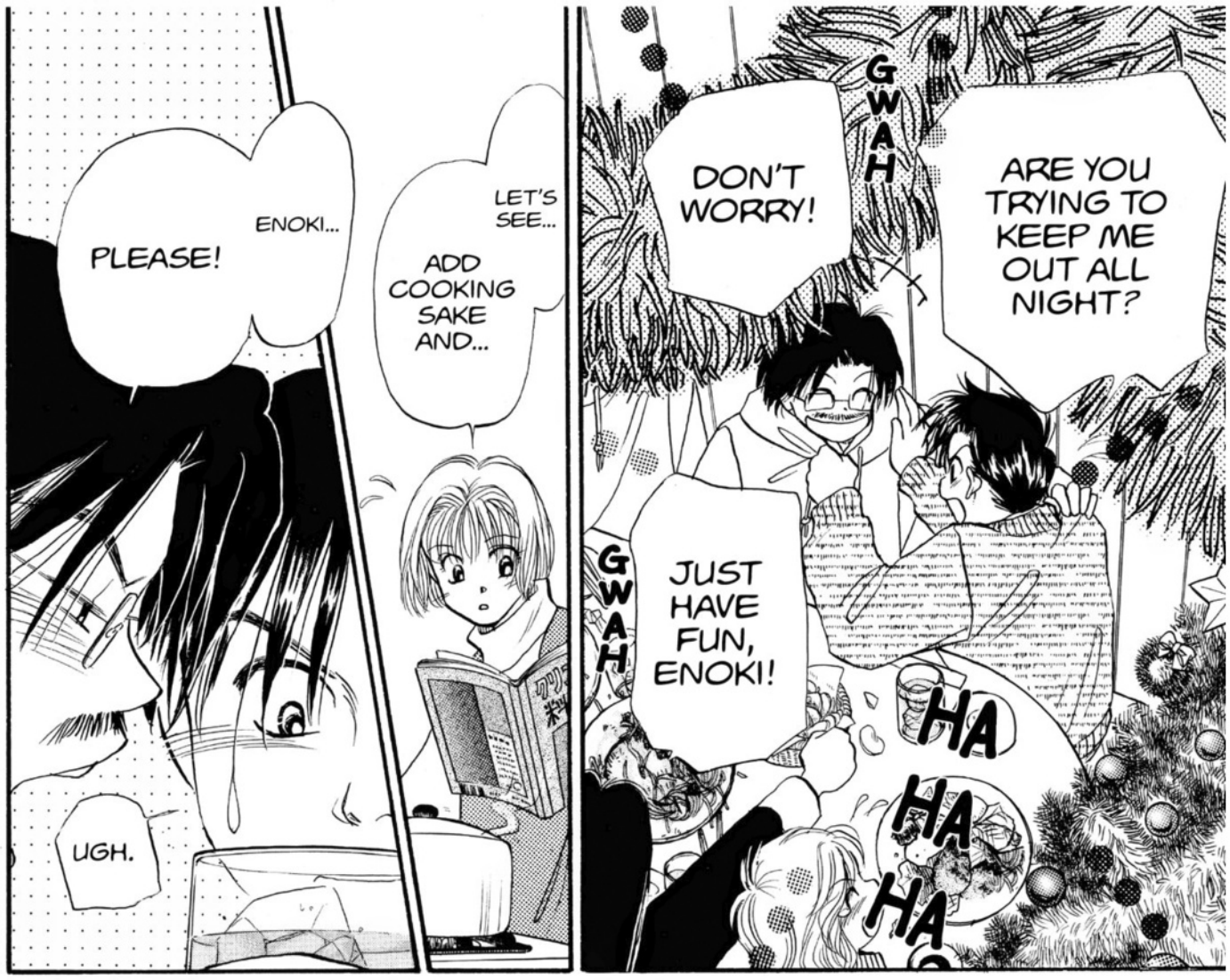
BUT AFTER THAT...
HEY.
YUKAKO?


WUNN
ENOKI!
WUNN

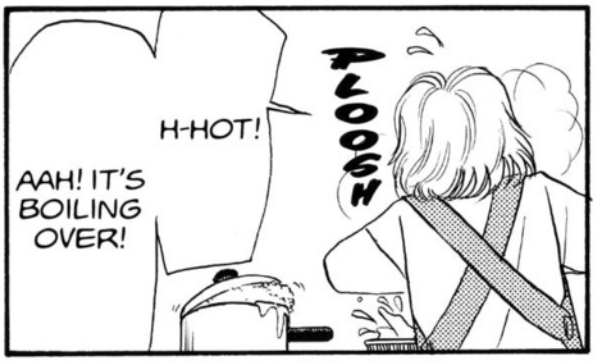
ON CHRISTMAS EVE, RIGHT BEFORE WINTER BREAK...
JINGLE BELLS
JINGLE BELLS
DING
DING
...THE WHOLE CITY WAS IN A FESTIVE MOOD.


WH-WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WITH THE SMILES?
LET'S HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY! ♡
CHRISTMAS PARTY! ♡
PARTY! ♡

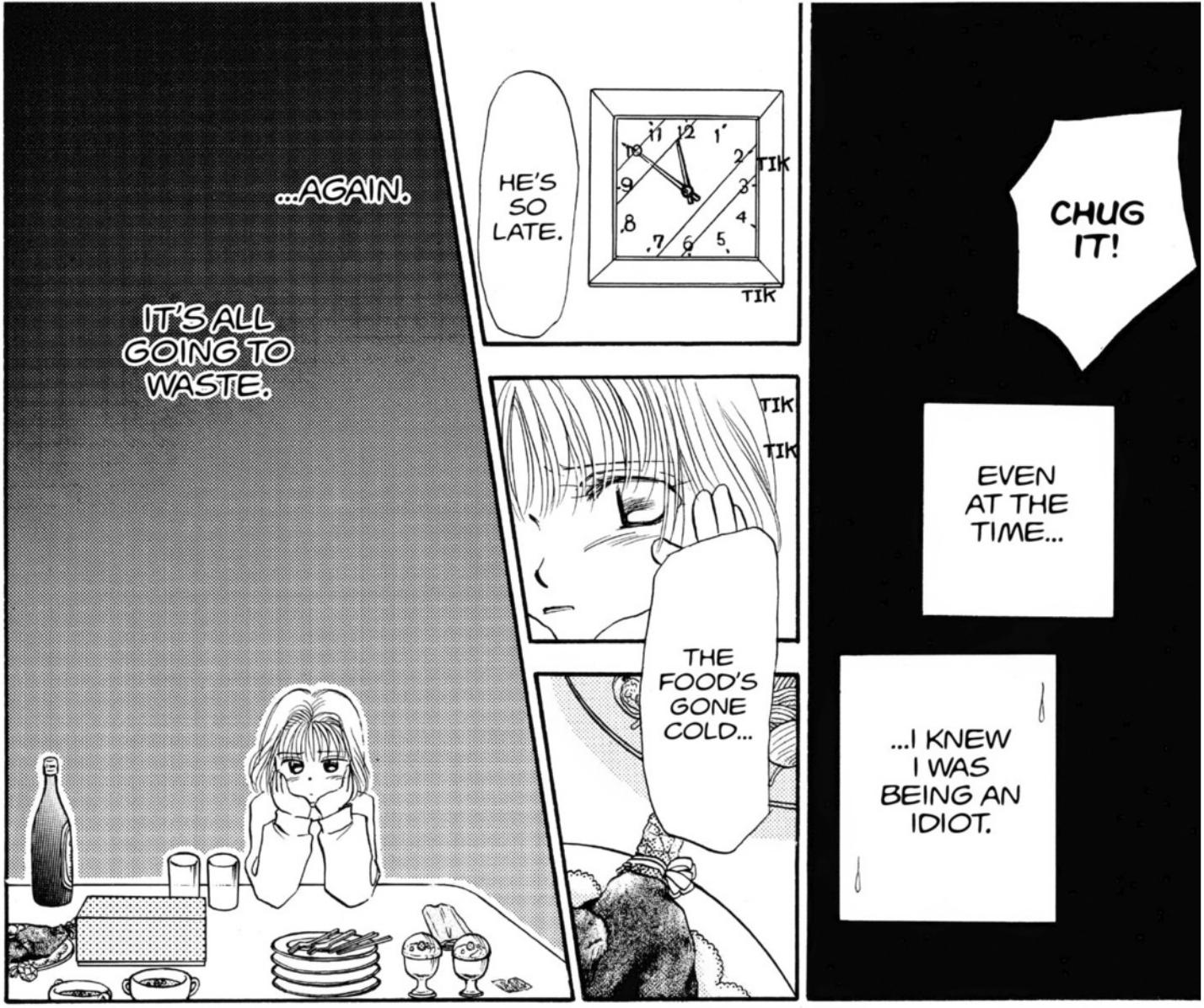
YEAH! ♡
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
LET'S GO!
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
I'LL PASS.
I'VE GOT A BUSY DAY TOMORROW, SO I NEED MY REST TONIGHT.
VEEN
EXCUSE ME! ANOTHER ROUND, PLEASE!
ALL RIGHT.
LET ME HAVE THE SMALLEST ONE, PLEASE.
Merry Xmas
CHRISTMAS CAKE B ¥3000
THEY'RE EXPENSIVE.
BUT TOMORROW'S CHRISTMAS.
HARUMI SAID HE WAS COMING HOME TONIGHT.
VEEN


PLEASE!
ENOKI...
UGH.
LET'S SEE...
ADD COOKING SAKE AND...
DON'T WORRY!
GWAH
ARE YOU TRYING TO KEEP ME OUT ALL NIGHT?
GWAH
JUST HAVE FUN, ENOKI!
HA HA HA

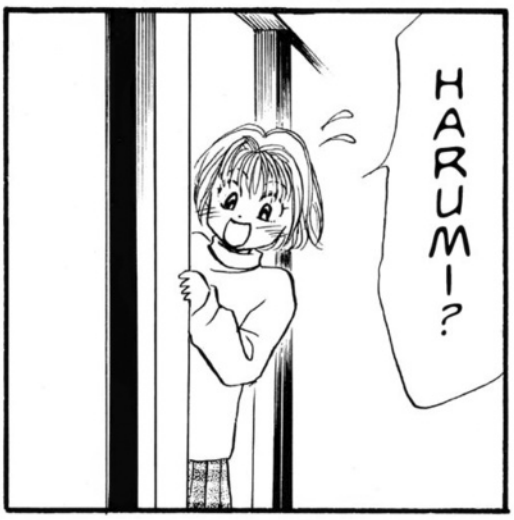
CHUG!
CHUG!
CHUG!
GLUGGLUGGLUGGLUG


AAH! IT'S BOILING OVER!
H-HOT!
PLOOSH

...AND SAYS, "HAVE A DRINK, HAND-SOME!"
KLAP
THEN THE LADY TURNS...
GEEZ.
KLAP
HERE WE GO!


...AGAIN.
IT'S ALL GOING TO WASTE.
HE'S SO LATE.
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
THE FOOD'S GONE COLD...
CHUG IT!
EVEN AT THE TIME...
...I KNEW I WAS BEING AN IDIOT.

WHOOM
!!
KLAK
KLAK


HARUMI?

WE'RE HOME!
HA
HA
HA
HA

ARE YOU HIS GIRLFRIEND?
WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS TOWARD HARUMI?
GULP!!
WE BROUGHT HARUMI HOME! ARE YOU THE LADY WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE THE OTHER DAY?
WHAT'S THIS?
SHUP
THEN TELL ME SOMETHING!
WHAT ?
WHAT ?
C'MON, ENOKI. OFF TO BED!
SMIRK
SMIRK
I'LL CARRY YOU.
UH, WAIT!
ZZZ ...
REALLY?
I'M JUST A HOUSEKEEPER.
SHE'S CUTE. ♡
SHRUFF SHRUFF
NNN
YACK
YACK
YOU CAN'T EAT IT ALL YOURSELF, RIGHT?
...
IT'S DELICIOUS! ♡
WOW !!
LOOK AT THIS FEAST !!
Merry X'mas

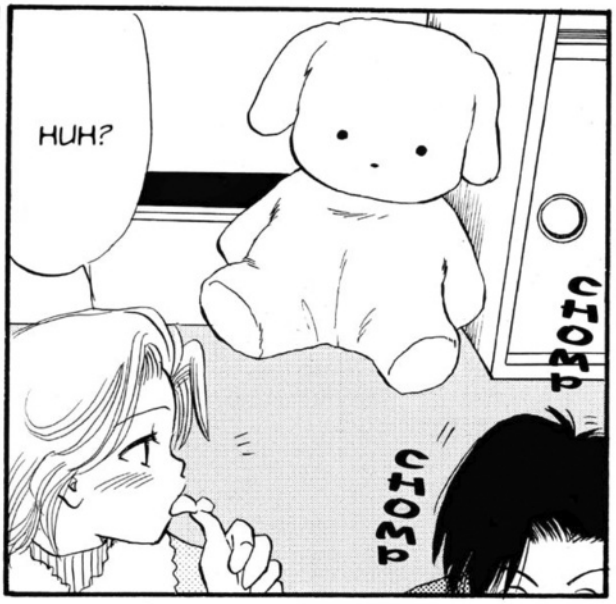
SNORE
...COULD HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY...
...JUST THE TWO OF US.

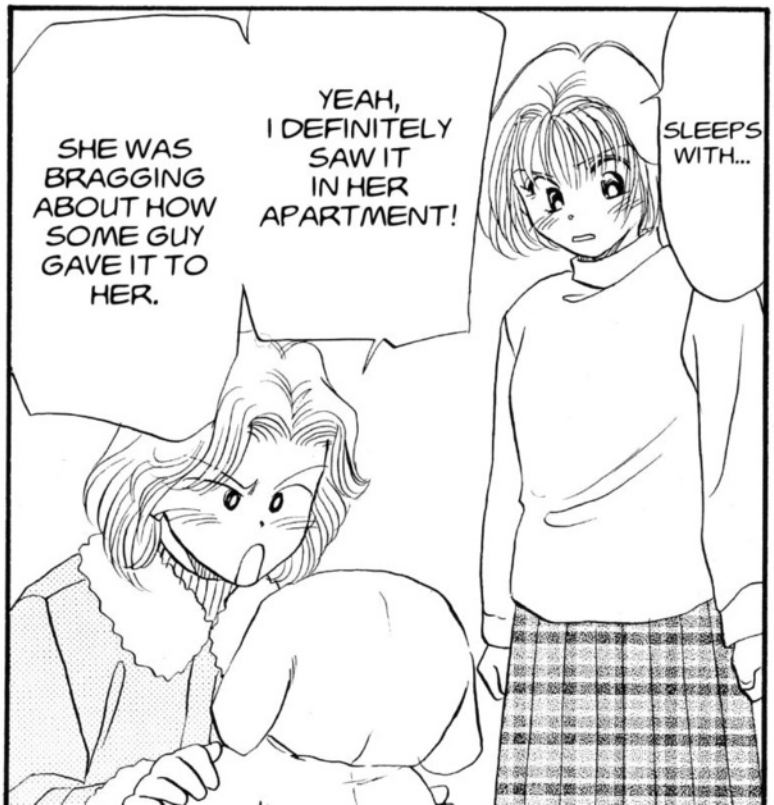
I DID ALL THIS WORK ...
...SO THAT HARUMI AND I...
Merry Xmas

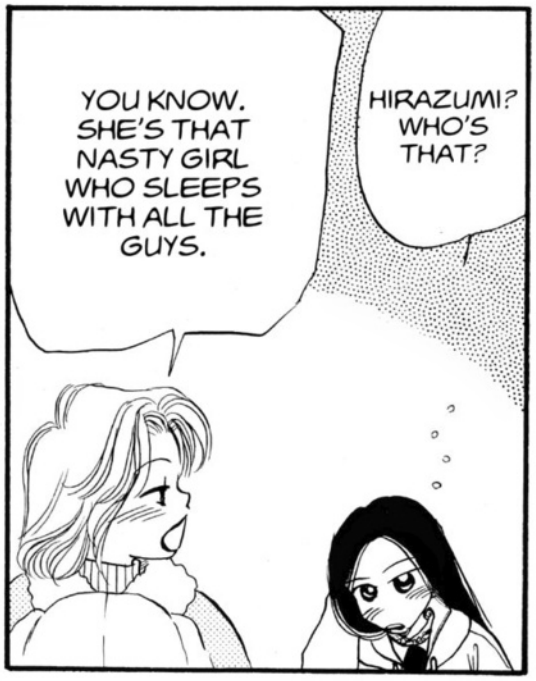
...
CHOMP
THE FOOD ...
CHOMP

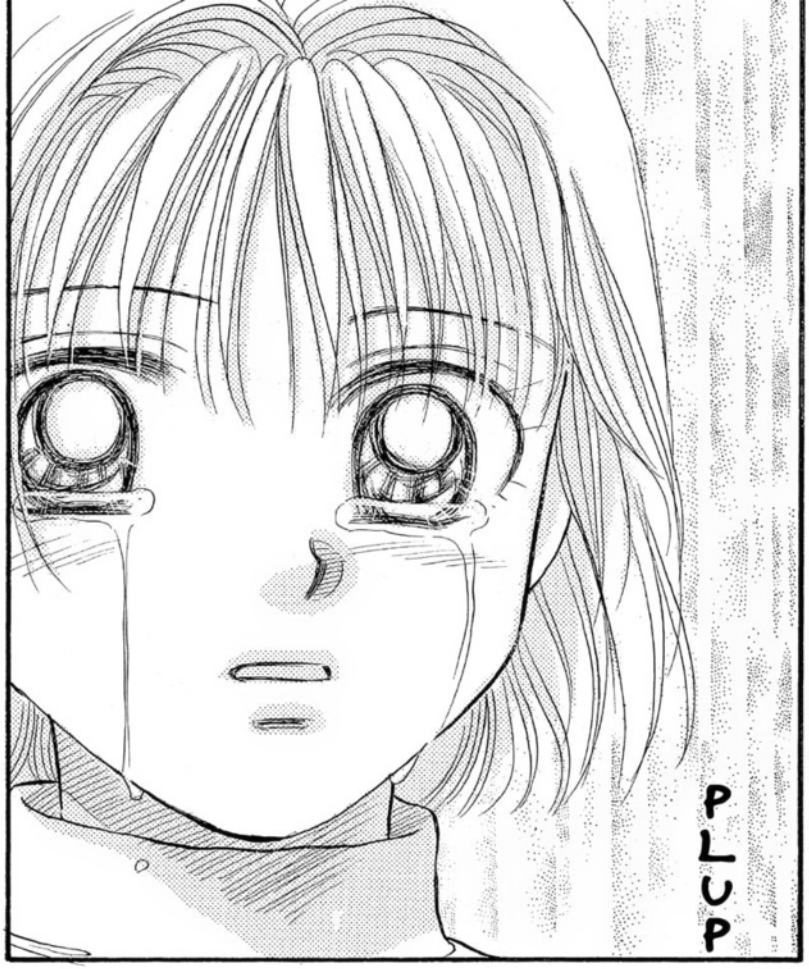
I SAW IT IN HIRAZUMI'S PLACE.
We're not friends anymore.
I REMEMBER THIS.

WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE?
HUH?

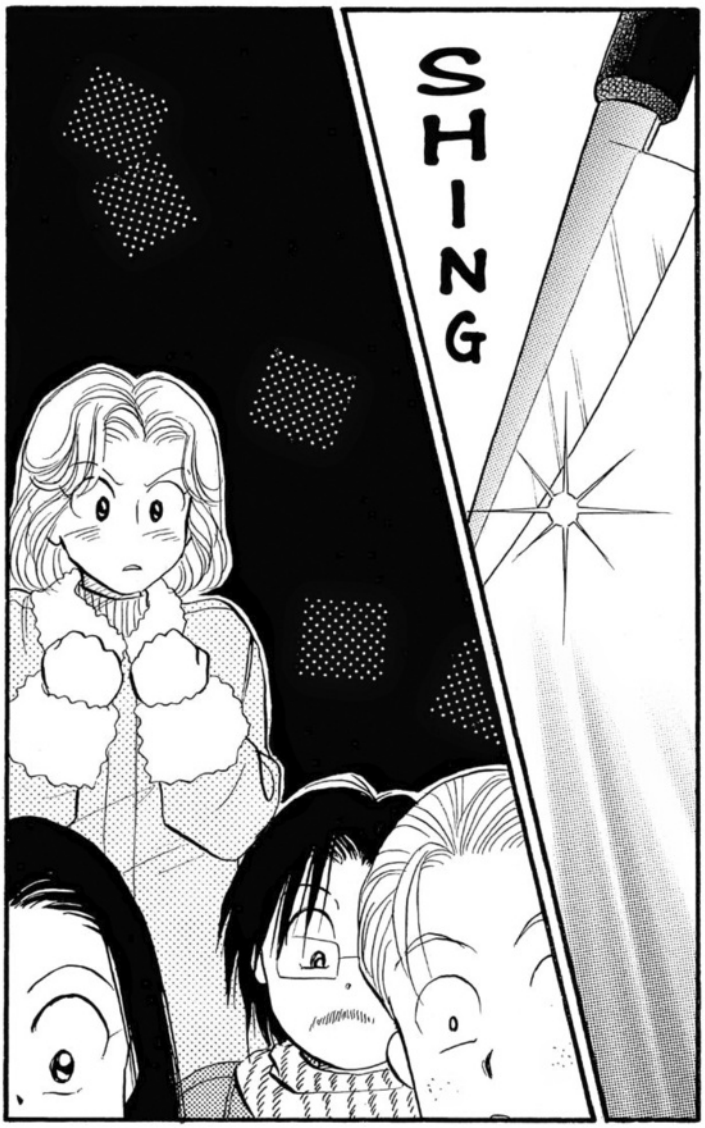

HUH?
CHOMP
CHOMP

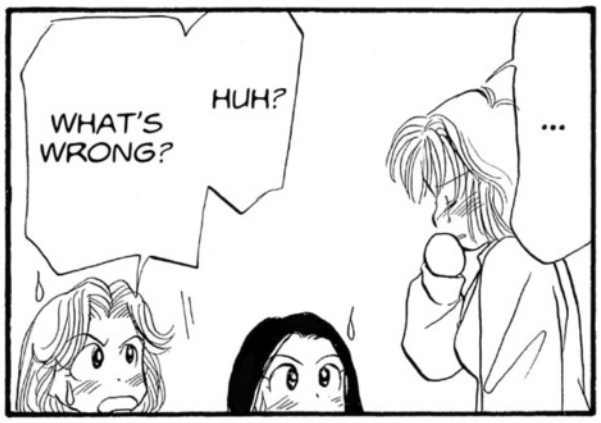

SHE WAS BRAGGING ABOUT HOW SOME GUY GAVE IT TO HER.
YEAH, I DEFINITELY SAW IT IN HER APARTMENT!
SLEEPS WITH...


YOU KNOW. SHE'S THAT NASTY GIRL WHO SLEEPS WITH ALL THE GUYS.
HIRAZUMI? WHO'S THAT?


PLUP

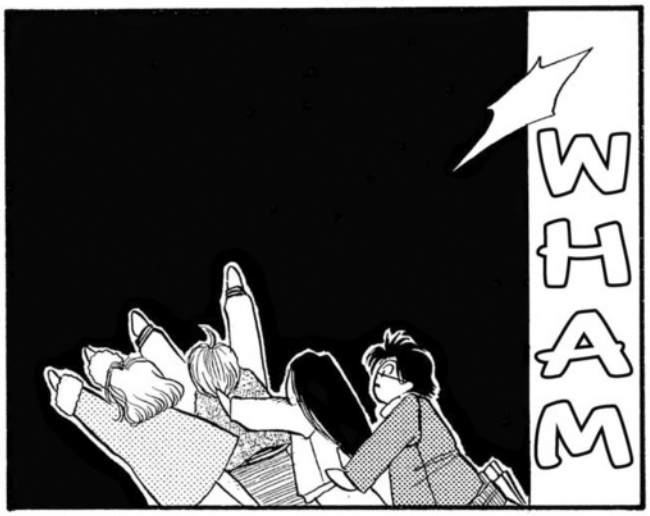
SHE GOT IT FROM ANOTHER GUY...
...AND GAVE IT TO ENOKI?
WHAM


SHING

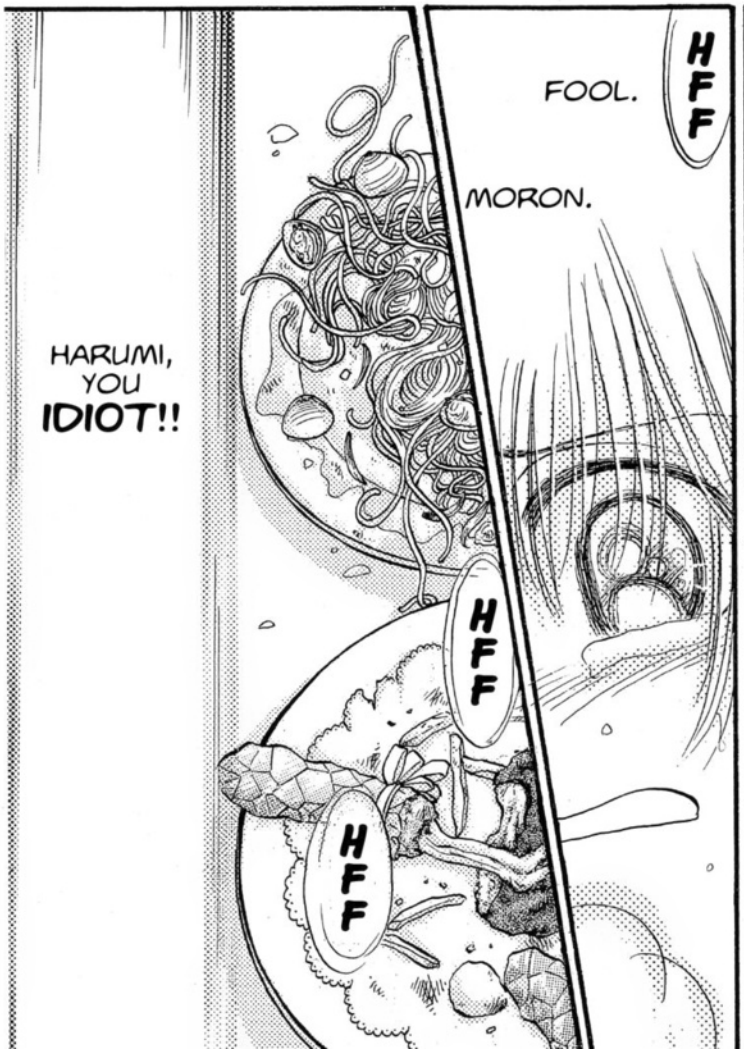

WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH?
...

OH!
TOMP

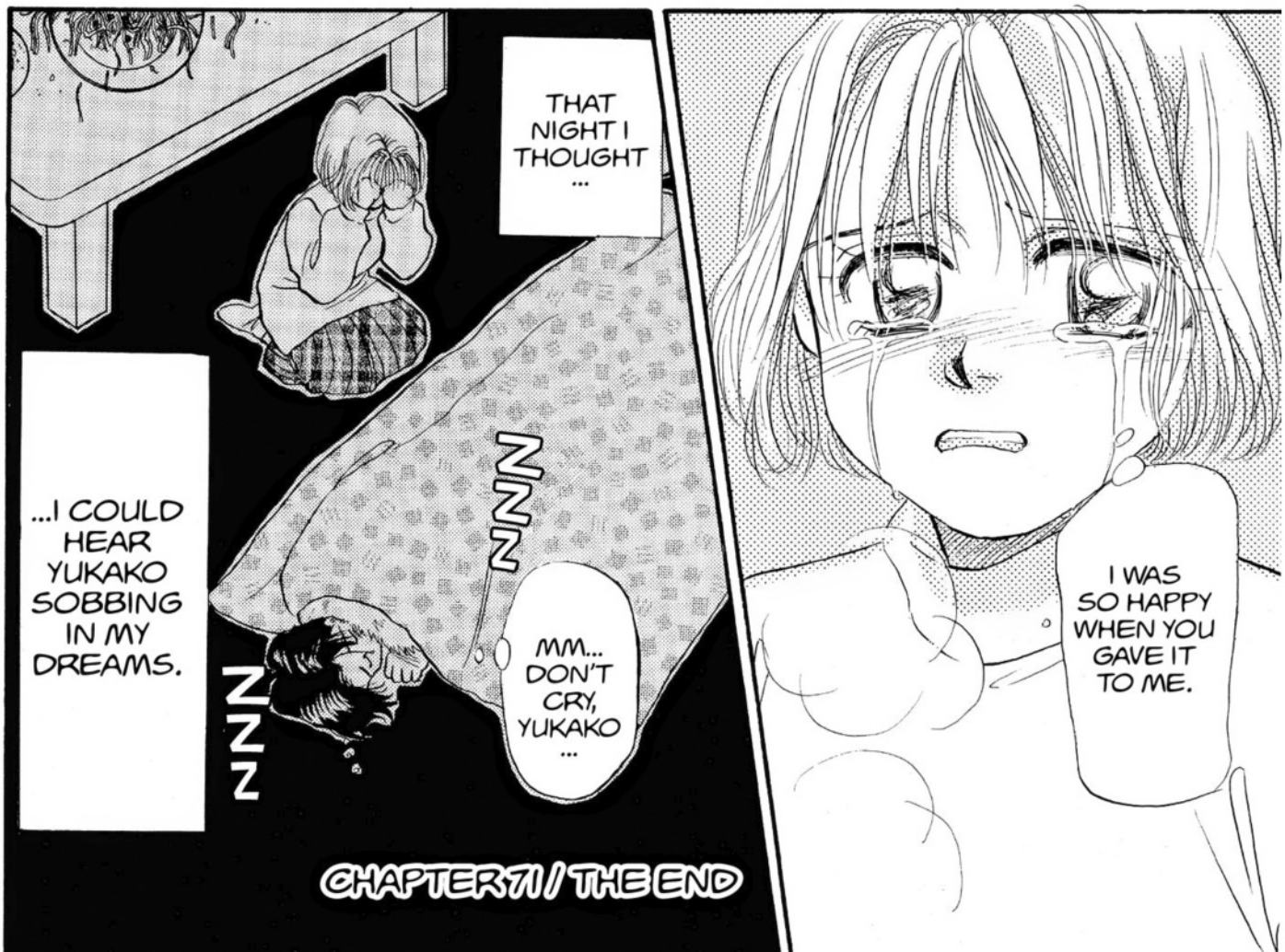
TMP
TMP
GET OUT!!
I HATE YOU!!
YOU'RE ALL IDIOTS !!
AAAAAH


WHAM

HFFF
STUPID!
HFFF


HARUMI, YOU IDIOT!!
FOOL.
HFFF
MORON.
HFFF
HFFF

...
MM...
HRMM
HMPH
THE FOOD'S ...
...ALL RUINED.
ZZZ
ZZZ
FWUFF


THAT NIGHT I THOUGHT ...
...I COULD HEAR YUKAKO SOBBING IN MY DREAMS.
ZZZ
ZZZ
MM... DON'T CRY, YUKAKO ...
I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN YOU GAVE IT TO ME.
CHAPTER 71 / THE END

AKA
BOKU

Chapter 72
BABY & Me

ON DECEMBER 25, 13 YEARS AGO, IT SNOWED.

THE WHOLE CITY WAS TREATED TO A WHITE CHRISTMAS.

UGH...

MY HEAD.

HERE.

MISO SOUP WITH TURNIP.

KLAK

OH. THANKS.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT BREAKFAST?

I'M TOO HUNG-OVER.

UM...WILL YOU BE COMING HOME TONIGHT?

WELL, MAYBE I CAN DISGUISE IT WITH COLOGNE.
A LITTLE.

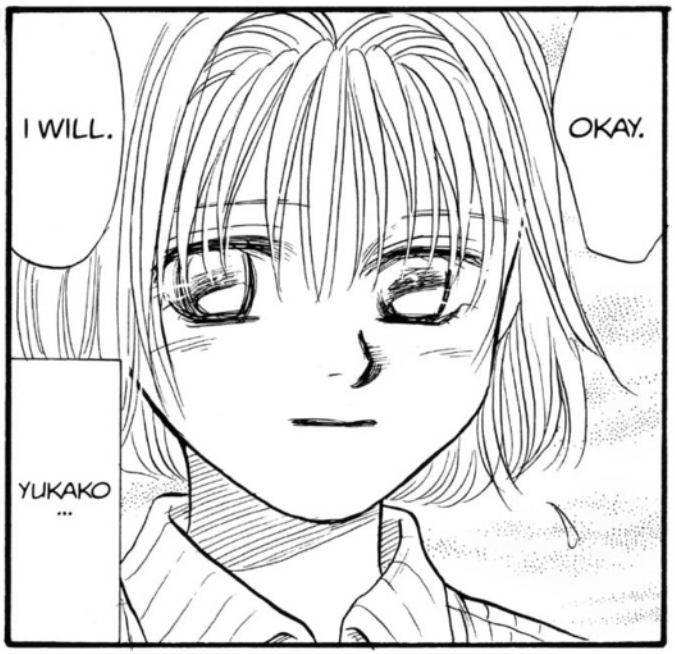
YUKAKO, DO I SMELL LIKE BOOZE?
GEEZ. I HAVE TO GO TO WORK TODAY.
THROB THROB

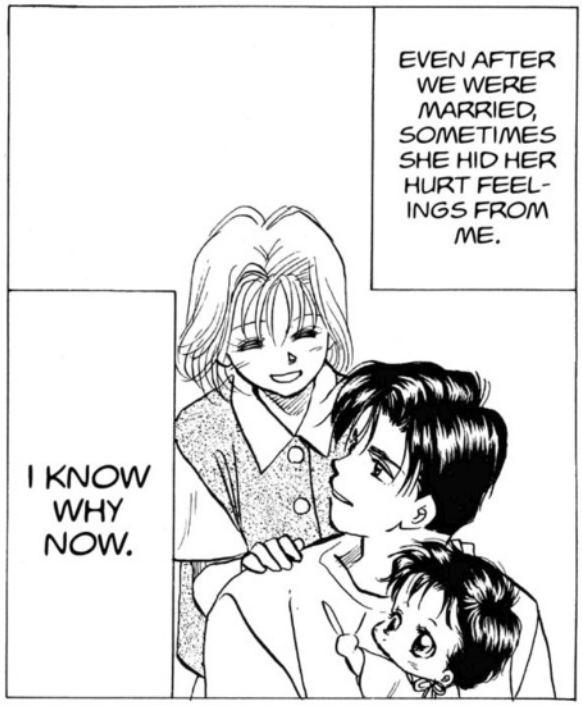
SO...
...BUT NOT BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
I'LL BE HOME...

...PLEASE MAKE DINNER FOR ME.

I'M SORRY.
N-NEVER MIND.
HUH?

YOUR FRIENDS BROUGHT YOU.
HOW DID I GET HOME LAST NIGHT, ANYWAY?
...DIDN'T CHEW ME OUT FOR GETTING DRUNK.


I WILL.
OKAY.
YUKAKO ...



WHEN I REALIZED THAT, I WAS DISGUSTED WITH MY OWN INSENSITIVITY.

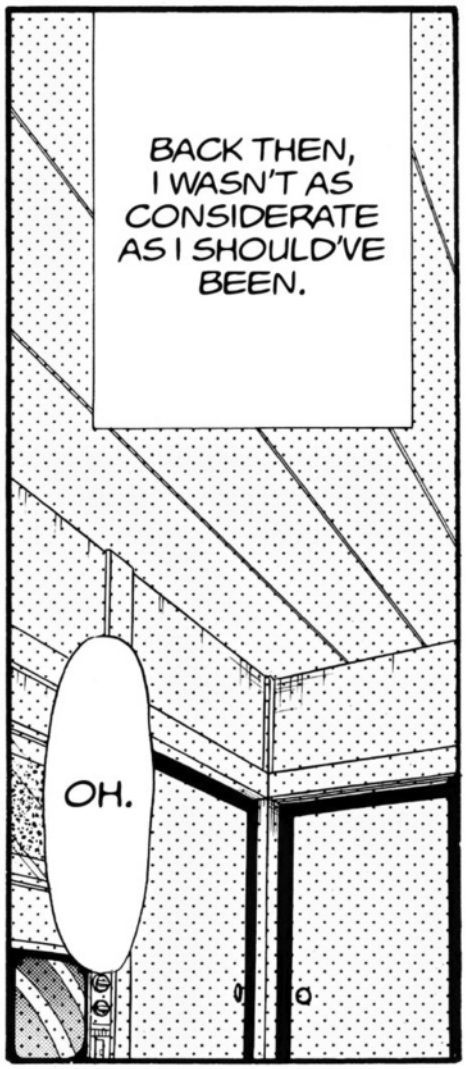
SHE COULDN'T STAND TO HURT ANYONE... BY WORD OR DEED.

BUT HER AFFECTION WAS ALWAYS SINCERE. I REALLY ADMIRED THAT ABOUT HER.

SHE WOULD RATHER SUFFER HERSELF.

YES.
DON'T YOU WORK TODAY?

I'D BETTER GO.

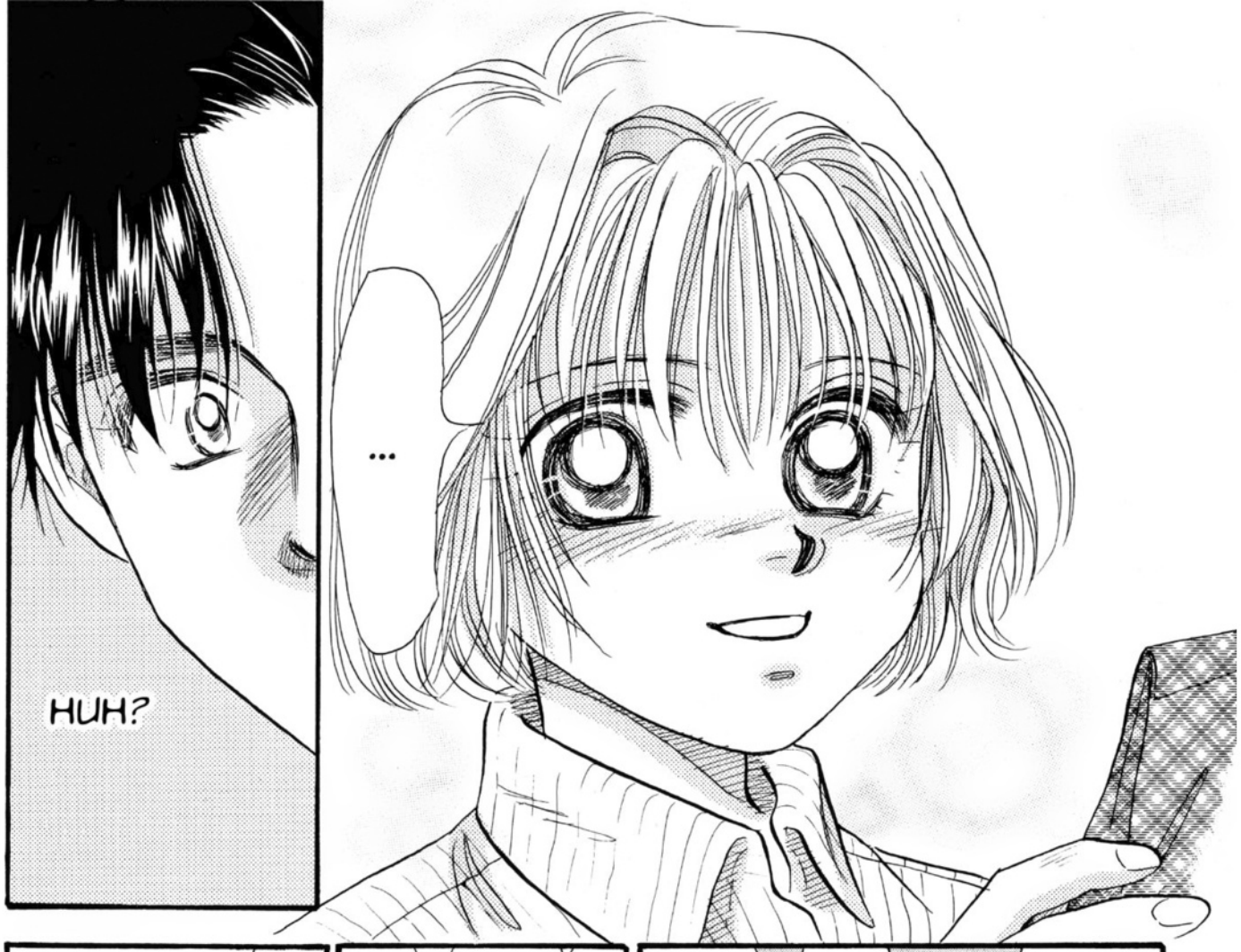

BACK THEN, I WASN'T AS CONSIDERATE AS I SHOULD'VE BEEN.
OH.

... ABOUT THIS.
OH. I FORGOT ...
SWUFF
SWUFF

HUH?
SWUFF

IT'S A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING YOU DO AROUND HERE.

HUH?
HERE, YUKAKO.

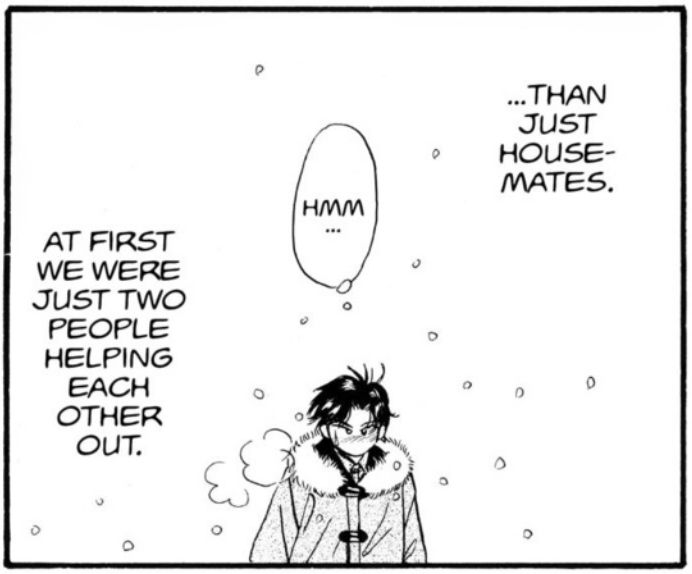

HUH?
...

WE'RE A LOT MORE ...
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THEM.

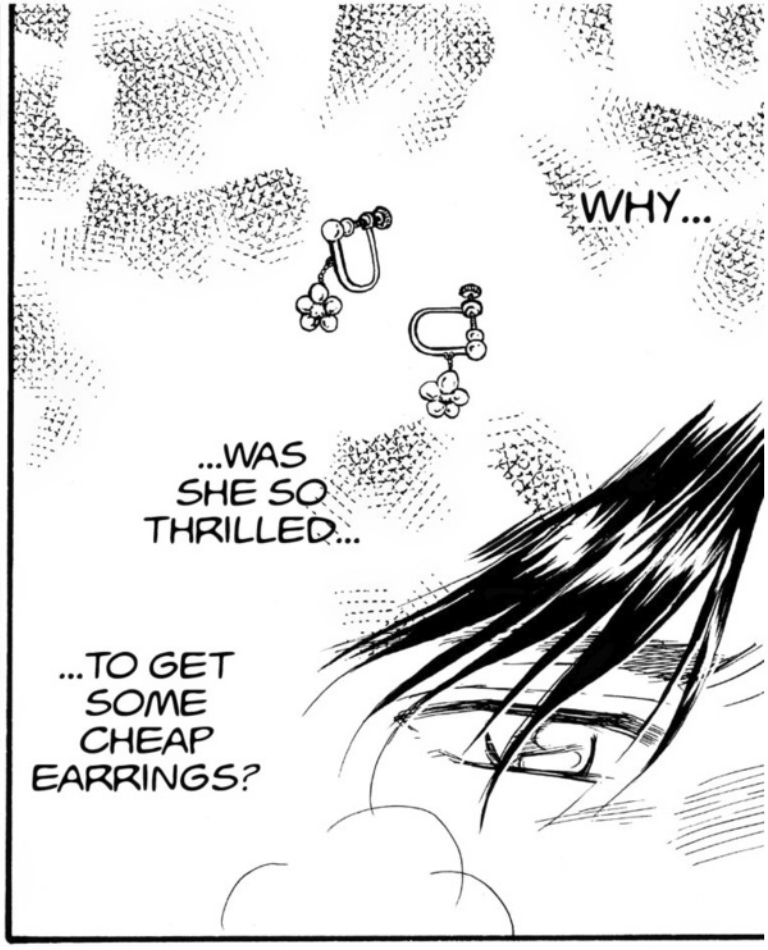
THEY'RE BEAUTI-FUL!
EAR-RINGS.
OH...

SHE LOOKED SO HAPPY.
SURE.
THANK YOU! CAN I OPEN IT?

...SHOOT.
OH...
I SHOULD'VE GIVEN HER SOMETHING NICER.
HUFF


AT FIRST WE WERE JUST TWO PEOPLE HELPING EACH OTHER OUT.
HMM ...
...THAN JUST HOUSE-MATES.

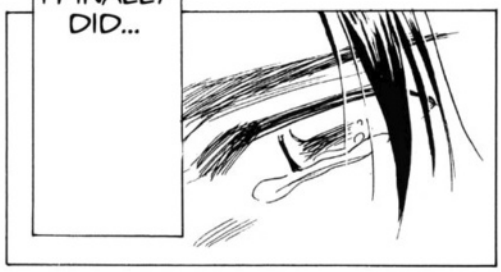
EVENTUALLY YUKAKO LOST ONE OF THE EARRINGS...
I HAPPENED TO...
...BUT SHE STILL TREASURED THE OTHER ONE.


WHY...
...WAS SHE SO THRILLED...
...TO GET SOME CHEAP EARRINGS?

...WAS YEARS LATER.
...THE TEARS CAME.
BUT THAT...

...AFTER HER DEATH.
...FIND IT AMONG HER MEMENTOS ...

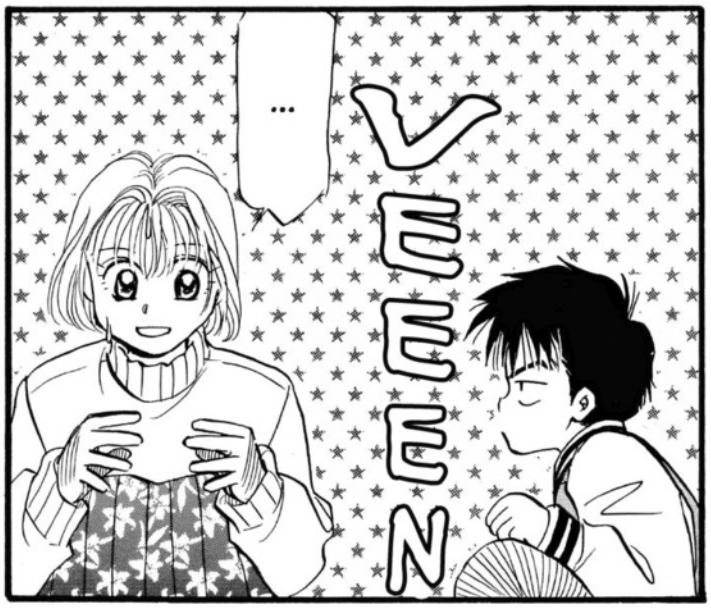
AT FIRST I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT.


WHEN I FINALLY DID...

ZZZZZ
I'VE KNOWN HARUMI FOR SIX MONTHS ALREADY.
IT'S AL-READY THE END OF THE YEAR. TIME SURE FLIES.
WHEW...
THERE.

OH, HI, SEIICHI. HOW ARE YOU?

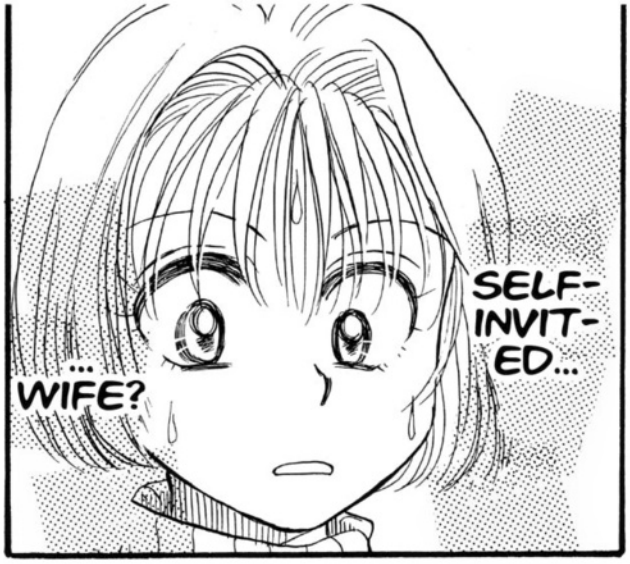
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
YUKAKO ...


...
VEEEN

THAT'S WEIRD.
YOU ARE?
HUH?

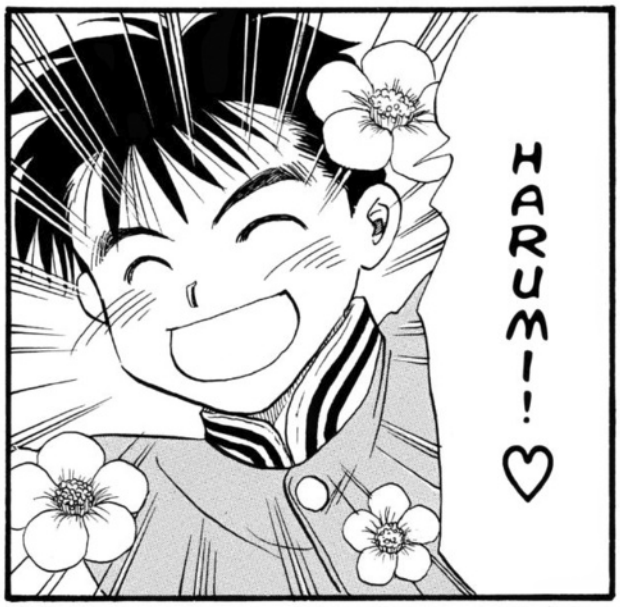
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I'M HIS HOUSE-KEEPER.

WHAT ARE YOU TO HARUMI, YUKAKO?
WHUP
CAN'T YOU SEE? I JUST PUT UP THE NEW YEAR'S WREATH.

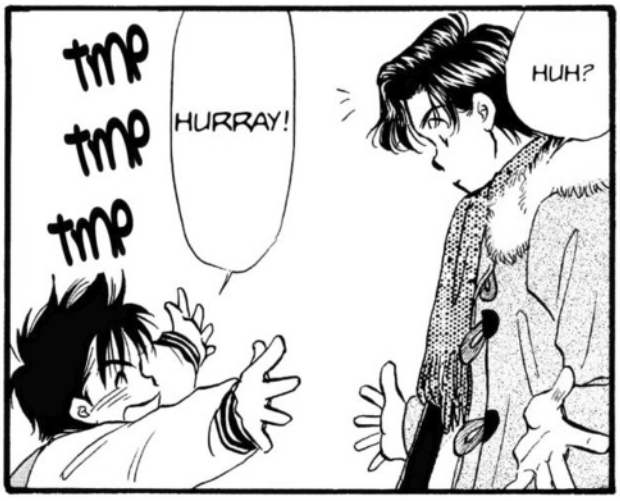

SELF-INVIT-ED...
...WIFE?

MY MOM AND DAD SAID...
...YOU WERE HIS SELF-INVITED WIFE.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, SEIICHI?
HELLO.


HARUMI!! ♡

PSYCH!!
HUNH
THWAK
UGH!!


HUH?
HURRAY!
trip
trip
trip

YOU'RE OUT OF SHAPE, OLD MAN. I'VE WHIPPED YOU THREE TIMES IN A ROW.
WH-WHY...
...YOU LITTLE ...

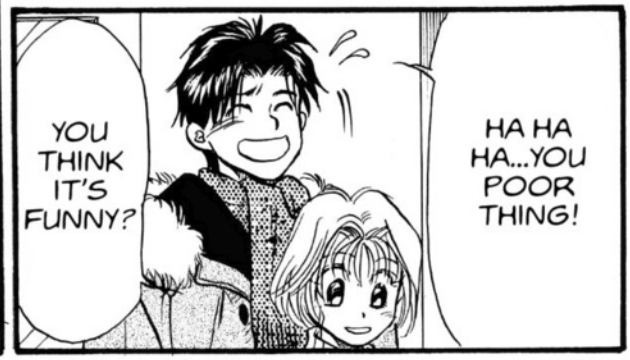
Author's Note Part 4

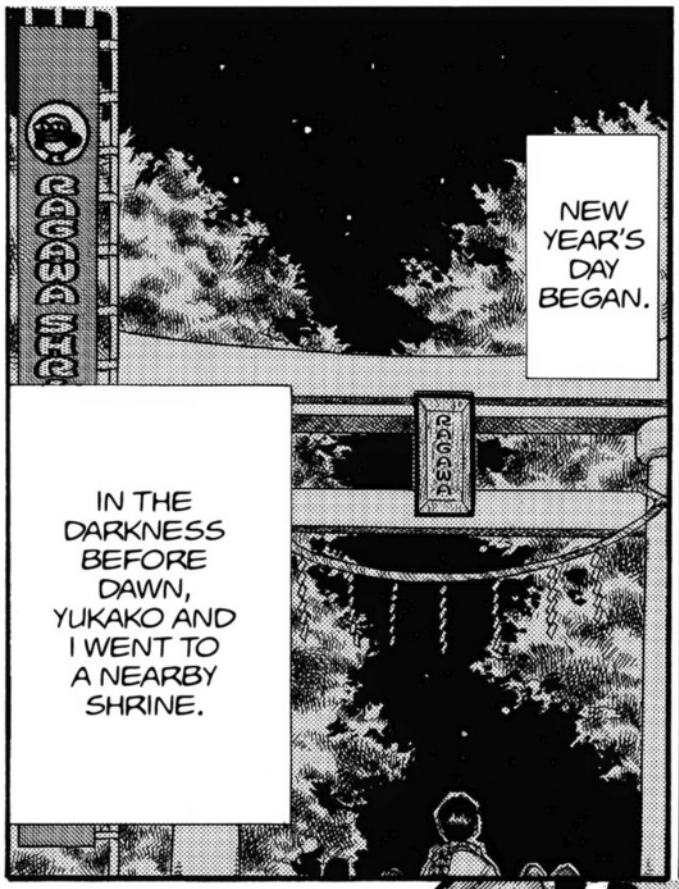
Marimo Ragawa's Let Me Draw What I Want

By Request

Attack of the Girl Clothes!

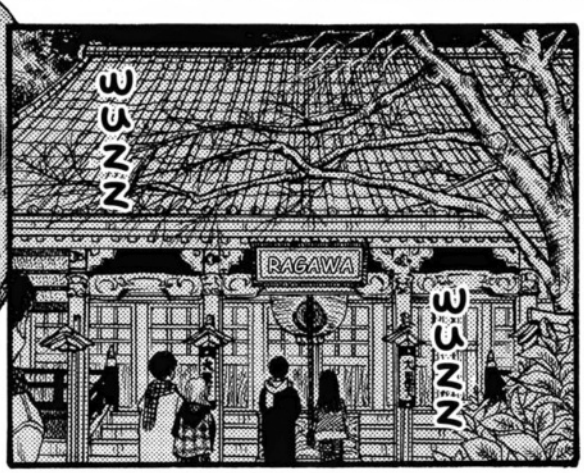
Disguise #3, the last one: Tsutomu Hirose in Kimono



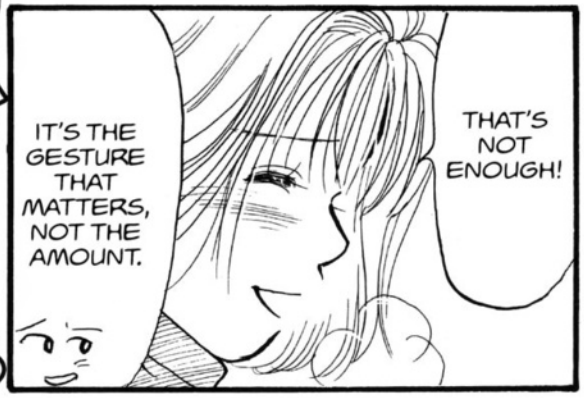

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEGAN.
IN THE DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN, YUKAKO AND I WENT TO A NEARBY SHRINE.

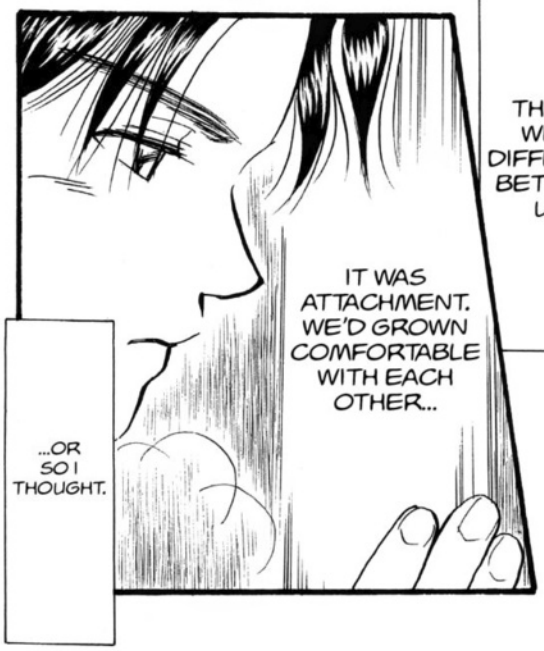
YUKAKO AND I ARE ...
...A MAN AND A WOMAN, AFTER ALL.
?

...BUT WE WEREN'T EXACTLY A COUPLE.
KLAP
KLAP


WUNN
RAGAWA
WUNN

WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY OFFERING?
FIVE YEN. THEY SAY YOU CAN SEE THE FUTURE THROUGH THE HOLE IN IT.


THAT'S NOT ENOUGH!
IT'S THE GESTURE THAT MATTERS, NOT THE AMOUNT.


THINGS WERE DIFFERENT BETWEEN US...
IT WAS ATTACHMENT. WE'D GROWN COMFORTABLE WITH EACH OTHER...
...OR SO I THOUGHT.

KLANG

KLANG

PLEASE LET US STAY AS WE ARE A WHILE LONGER.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S PRAYING FOR.
HA HA HA.
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I VISITED A SHRINE FOR NEW YEAR'S.
LET'S GO HOME AND HAVE MOCHI SOUP.
OKAY!
I...
...DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANY-MORE.
I DON'T HAVE TO WORK ANYMORE THIS YEAR.
HUH?

HUH?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU STILL SEEM SAD.

...

MY INHERI-TANCE IS COMING THROUGH.

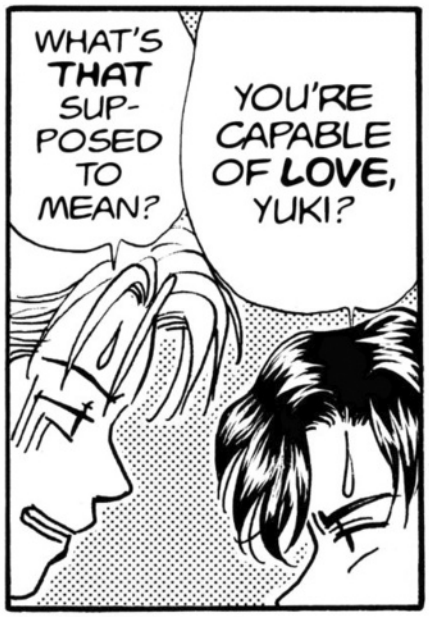
GOOD.
IT'S A GOOD THING, THOUGH.
MY LIFE WILL BE A LOT EASIER NOW. I CAN FOCUS ALL MY ENERGY ON SCHOOL.

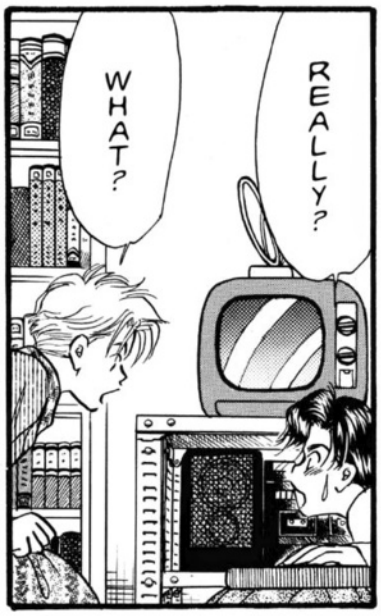
...NOW THAT EVERY-THING IS FINISHED...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...
...IT FEELS LIKE MY PARENTS ARE REALLY GONE.

...AREN'T THEY?
THESE ARE THE EARRINGS I GAVE YOU...
SWF
OH...
UH...

...
OH!
S-SORRY!
WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS IS WEIRD.
HA HA HA
WHUP
SWF
WHAT IS THIS?
OH, MAN...
WHY DO I FEEL SO STRANGE?
BEATS ME.
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
YUKAKO, YOU'RE SO TRANS-PARENT.

YOU THINK YUKAKO'S IN LOVE WITH YOU?
WHAT?
I'M NOT BRAGGING.
IDIOT.
OF COURSE! YOU THINK YOU'RE GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN OR SOMETHING?
...SOUND CONCEITED?
DOES THAT...
SHE WAS CRYING BECAUSE OF THAT?
YES!
IT WAS?
THAT WAS A TENDER MOMENT, FOOL.
ARE YOU STUPID?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING?
BUT WHY DID SHE START CRYING?
I JUST REALIZED SHE LIKES ME.





SHE'LL CRY.

OUR GOOD RELATIONSHIP WILL BE RUINED.

NO!!

I'M SURE YUKAKO DOESN'T WANT THAT, EITHER!

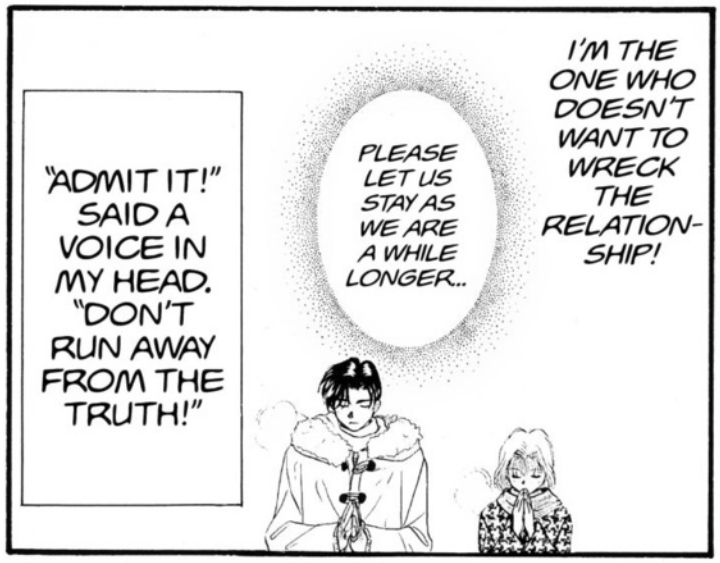
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

HMM...

ANYWAY, I WAS HONESTLY TROUBLED.

I WASN'T CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO ACCEPT YUKAKO'S FEELINGS.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WAS READY FOR LOVE.


"ADMIT IT!" SAID A VOICE IN MY HEAD. "DON'T RUN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH!"
PLEASE LET US STAY AS WE ARE A WHILE LONGER..
I'M THE ONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO WRECK THE RELATION-SHIP!

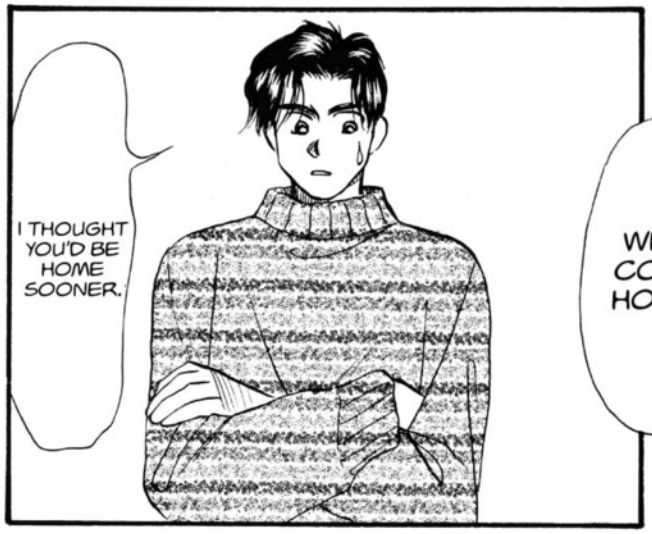
SWUFF

AT THAT MOMENT, I WAS THINKING OF YUKAKO'S FEELINGS.
BUT I KNEW THAT WASN'T THE ONLY ISSUE.
I HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER, TOO.

SWF
SWF

HUH?
HOW MUCH RICE IS LEFT?

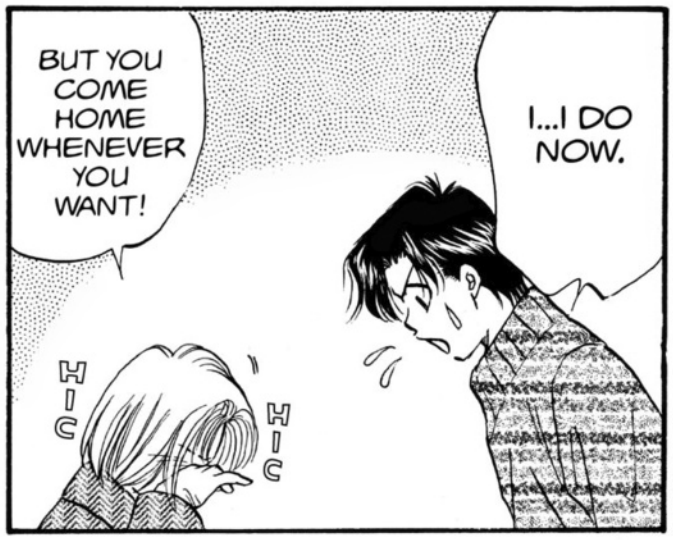
UNH...
HFF...
THIS WEIGHS A TON.
SWUFF
SWUFF

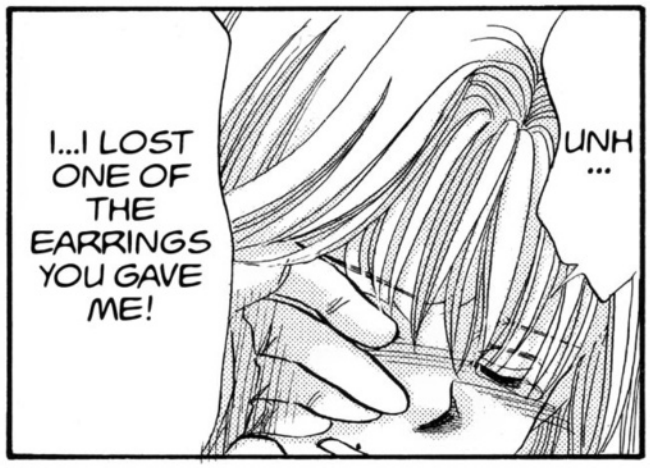


HE'S A STEP ABOVE HER.

...
SOB...
SNIFF

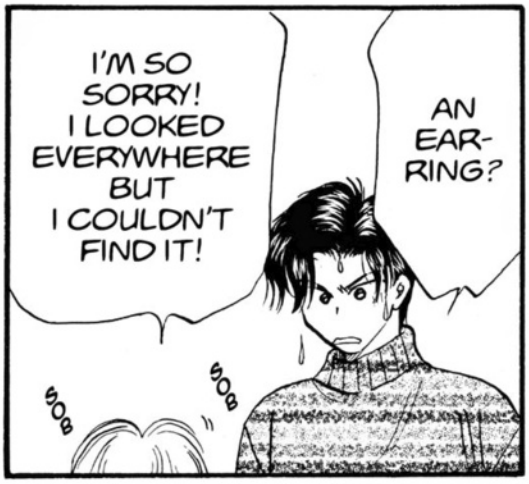
YOU NEVER ...
...CALLED ME WHEN YOU WERE LATE!


BUT YOU COME HOME WHENEVER YOU WANT!
I...I DO NOW.
HIC
HIC


I...I LOST ONE OF THE EARRINGS YOU GAVE ME!
UNH ...

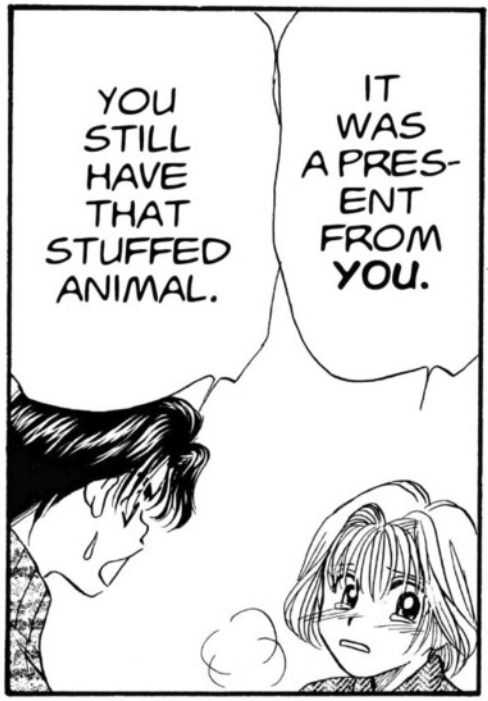
I WAS JUST WOR-RIED.
I WASN'T MAD AT YOU.

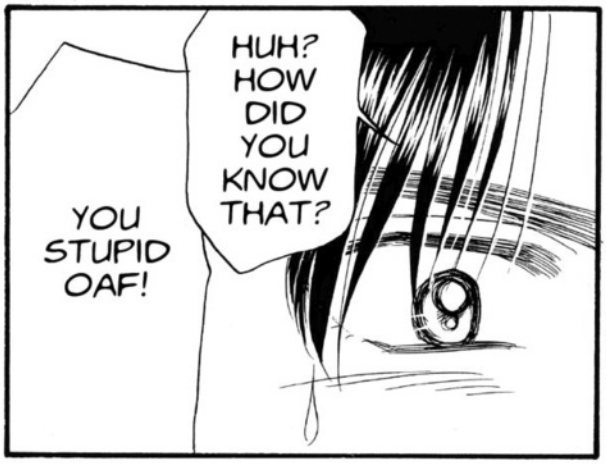
...WHERE YOU WERE ALL THIS TIME?
THAT'S ...

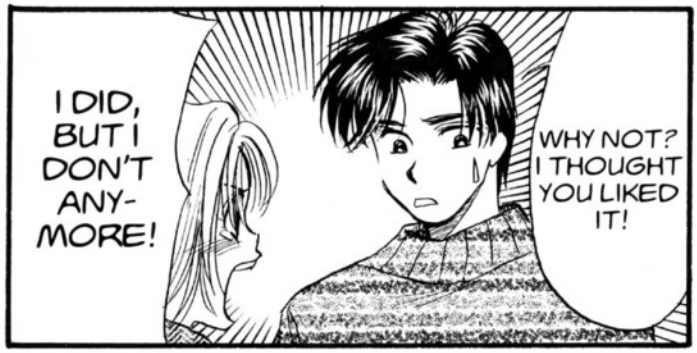

I'M SO SORRY! I LOOKED EVERYWHERE BUT I COULDN'T FIND IT!
AN EAR-RING?
SOB
SOB

WHAT?

NO!
I DON'T WANT THAT!


YOU STILL HAVE THAT STUFFED ANIMAL.
IT WAS A PRES-ENT FROM **YOU.**


HUH? HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU STUPID OAF!


WHY NOT? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED IT!
I DID, BUT I DON'T ANY-MORE!

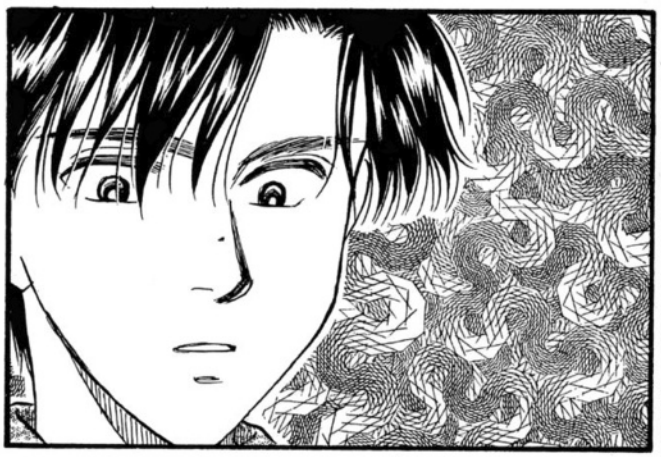
WHY DID YOU EVEN GIVE IT TO ME?
YOU GOT IT FROM A WOMAN YOU SLEPT WITH!!

YOU'RE AS CAL-LOUS...
...AS THE WOMAN WHO GAVE IT TO YOU!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE...
IT'S JUST A STUFFED ANIMAL.
...WHERE IT CAME FROM?
...
...DO THIS ANY-MORE.
I CAN'T...
SOB...
SOB...
DON'T CRY.
PLEASE ...
OKAY?
I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER PAIR OF EARRINGS.
I THOUGHT ...
...YUKAKO WAS JUST UPSET.
I TRIED TO CALM HER DOWN.
SOB SOB

I DON'T KNOW ...
I DON'T KNOW ...
...WHAT TO DO!!

WHY DO YOU DO THIS TO ME?



...
NO, DON'T.

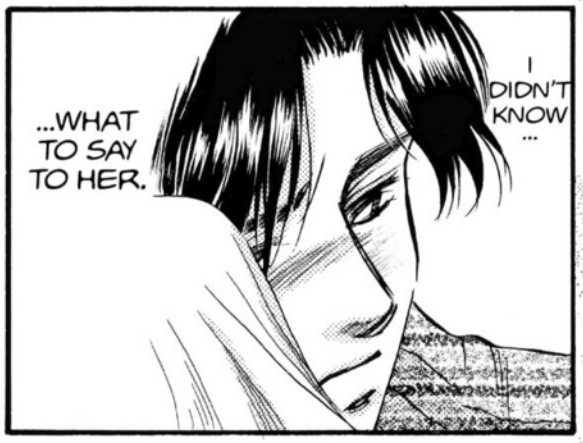
I'M...
...MOVING OUT.

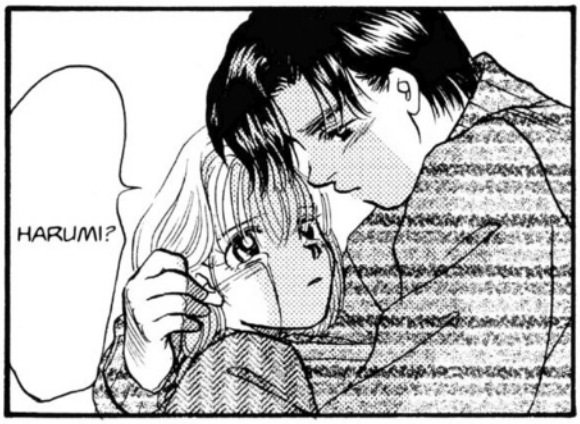
...
SWUP
SWUP

...CARE ABOUT THAT!

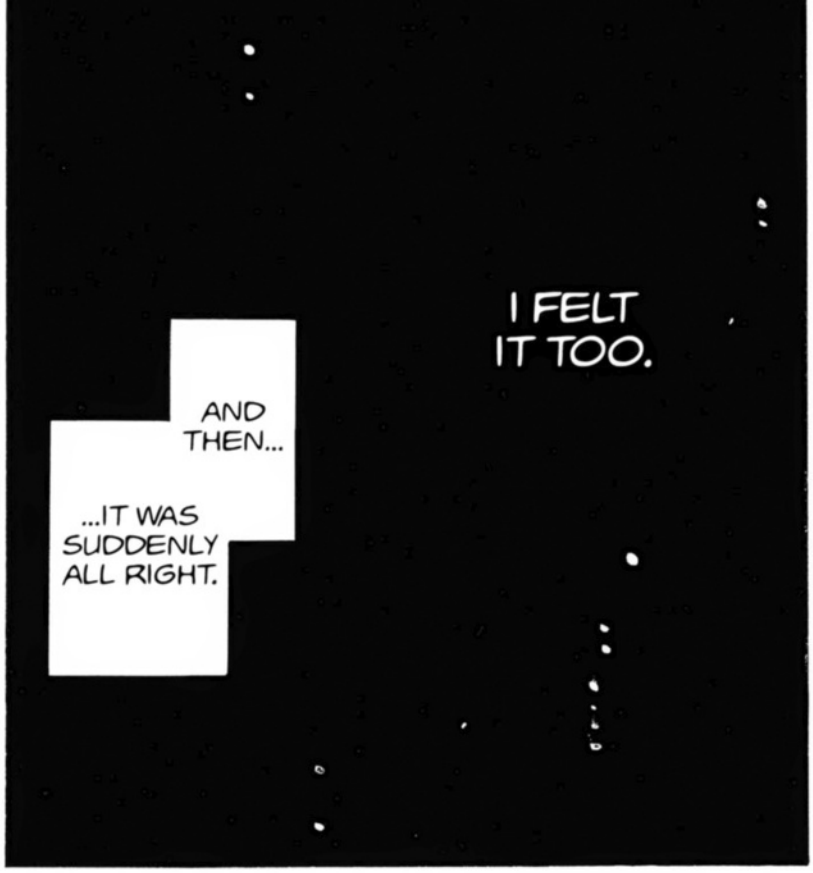
I DON'T ...

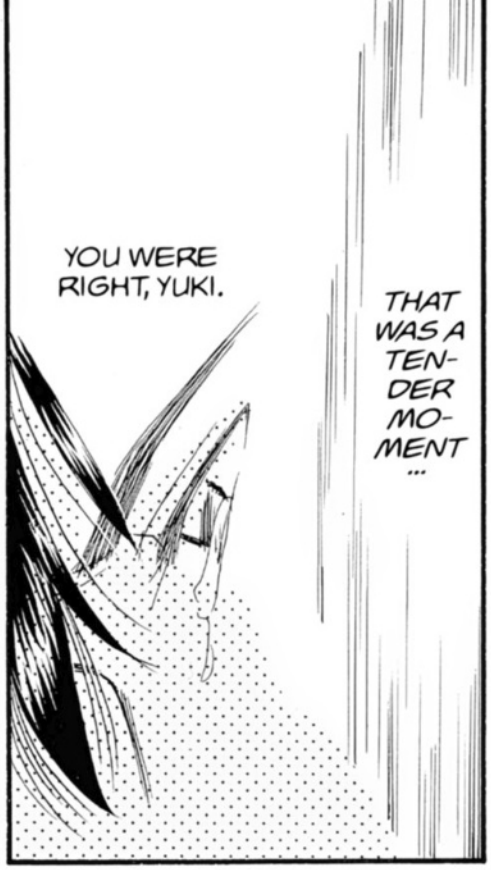
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING A NEW HOUSE-KEEPER.
THERE'S NO SHORT-AGE.

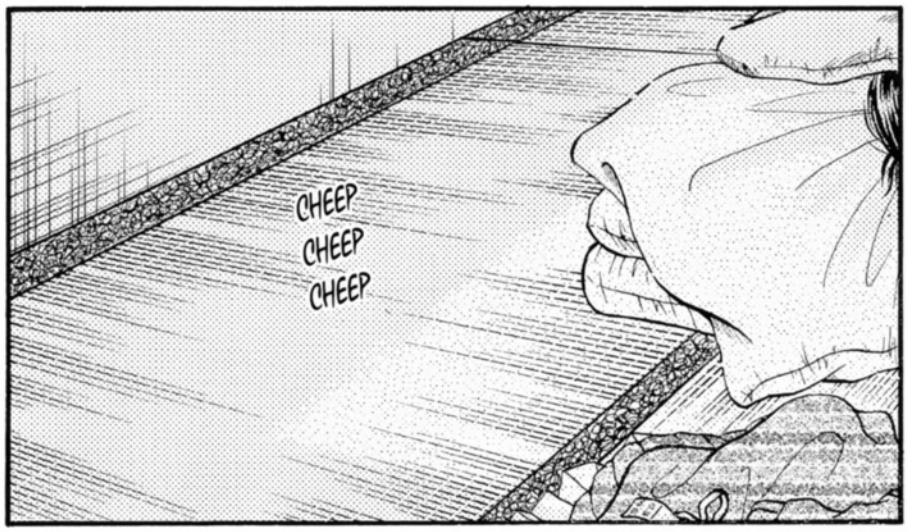

I DIDN'T KNOW ...
...WHAT TO SAY TO HER.


HARUMI?

...
HUH?
WSP
...
DON'T LEAVE ME.







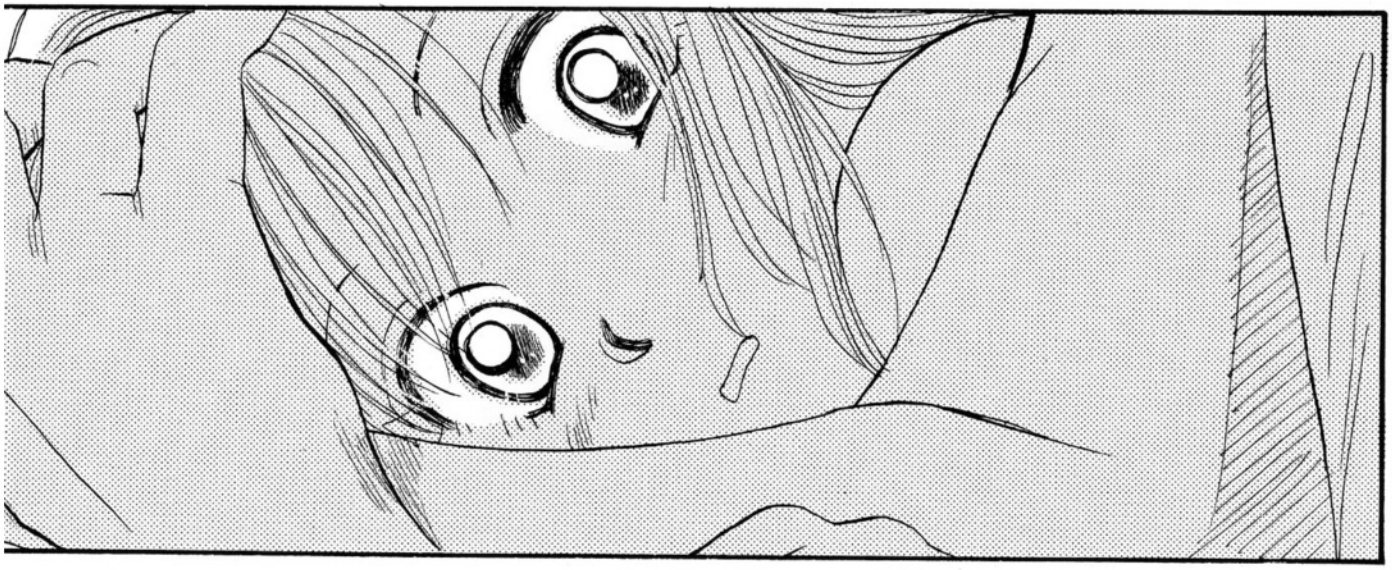
I COULD ACCEPT HER FEELINGS.

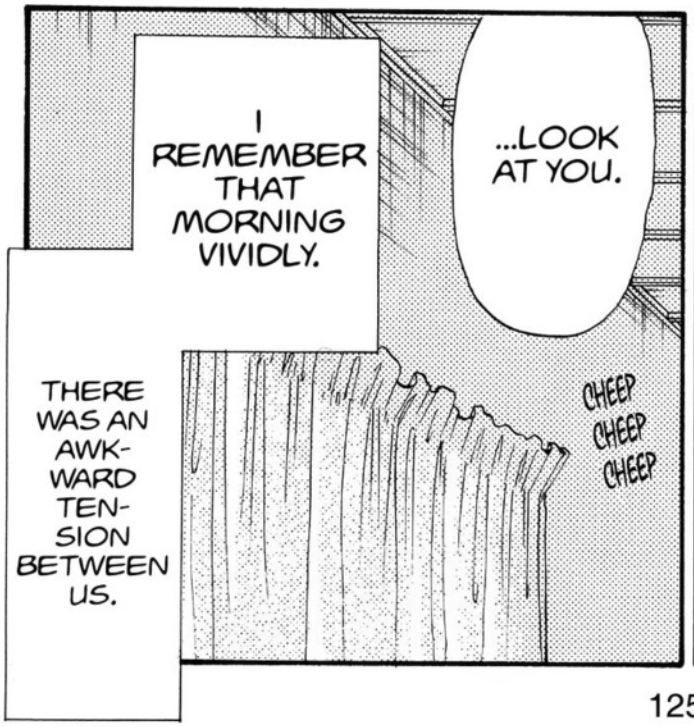
I FINALLY FELT SURE.

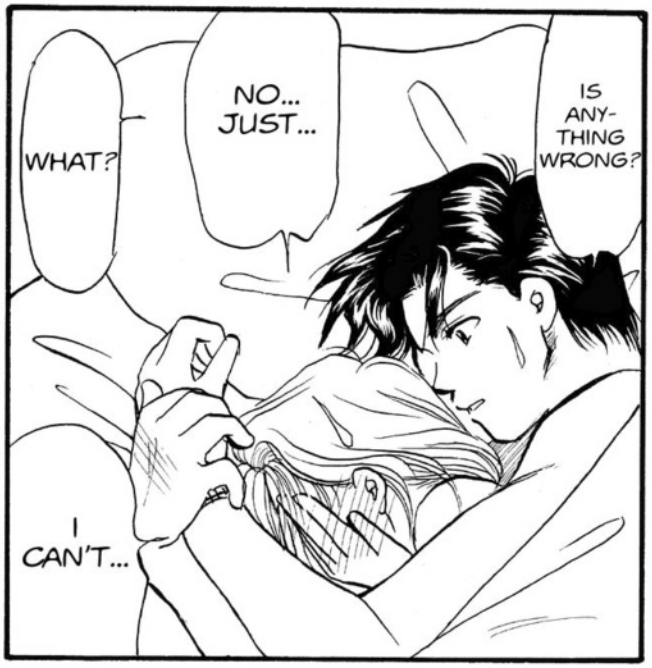
GOOD MORNING.
TIME TO GET UP.

SWF
MM...

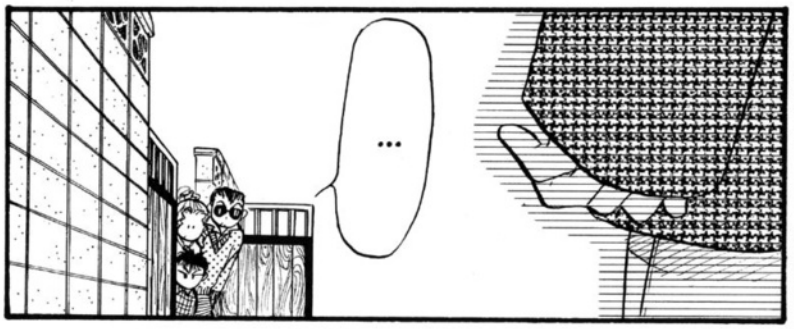
ZZZ




I REMEMBER THAT MORNING VIVIDLY.
THERE WAS AN AWKWARD TENSION BETWEEN US.
...LOOK AT YOU.
CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP


WHAT?
NO... JUST...
IS ANYTHING WRONG?
I CAN'T...

AFTER THAT...
...YUKAKO AND I HELD HANDS WHEN WE WALKED.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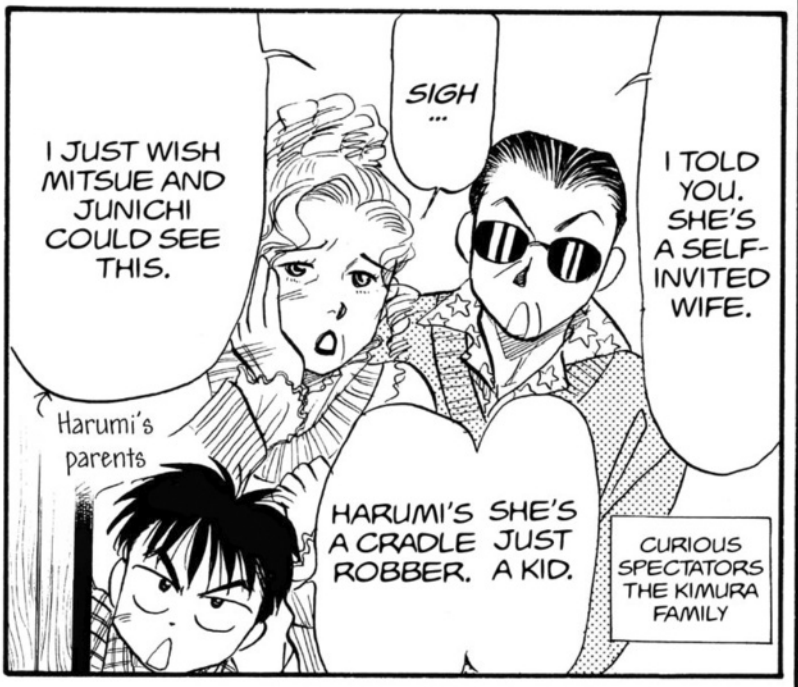
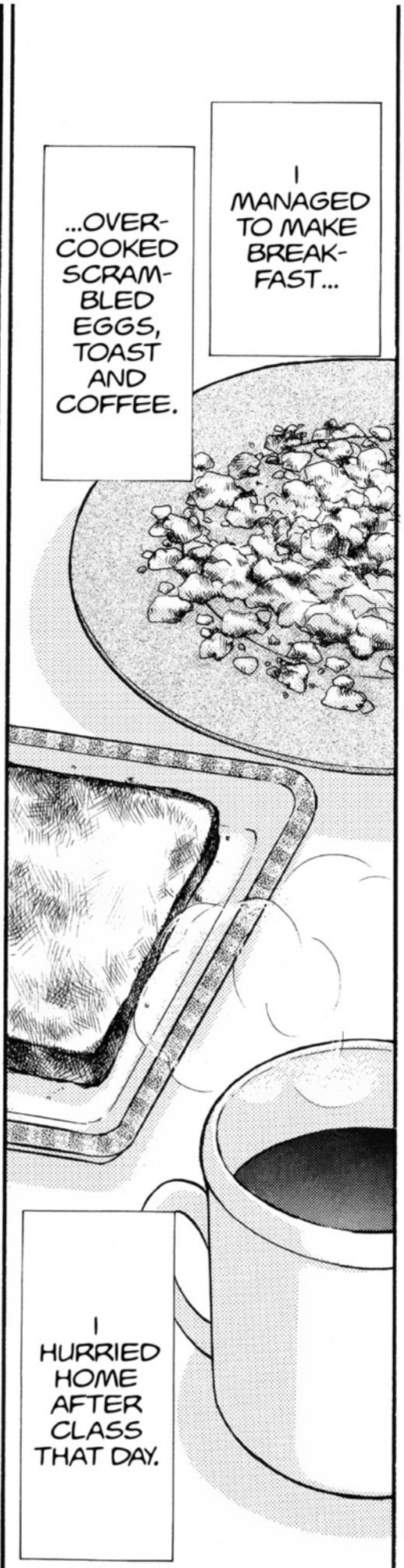
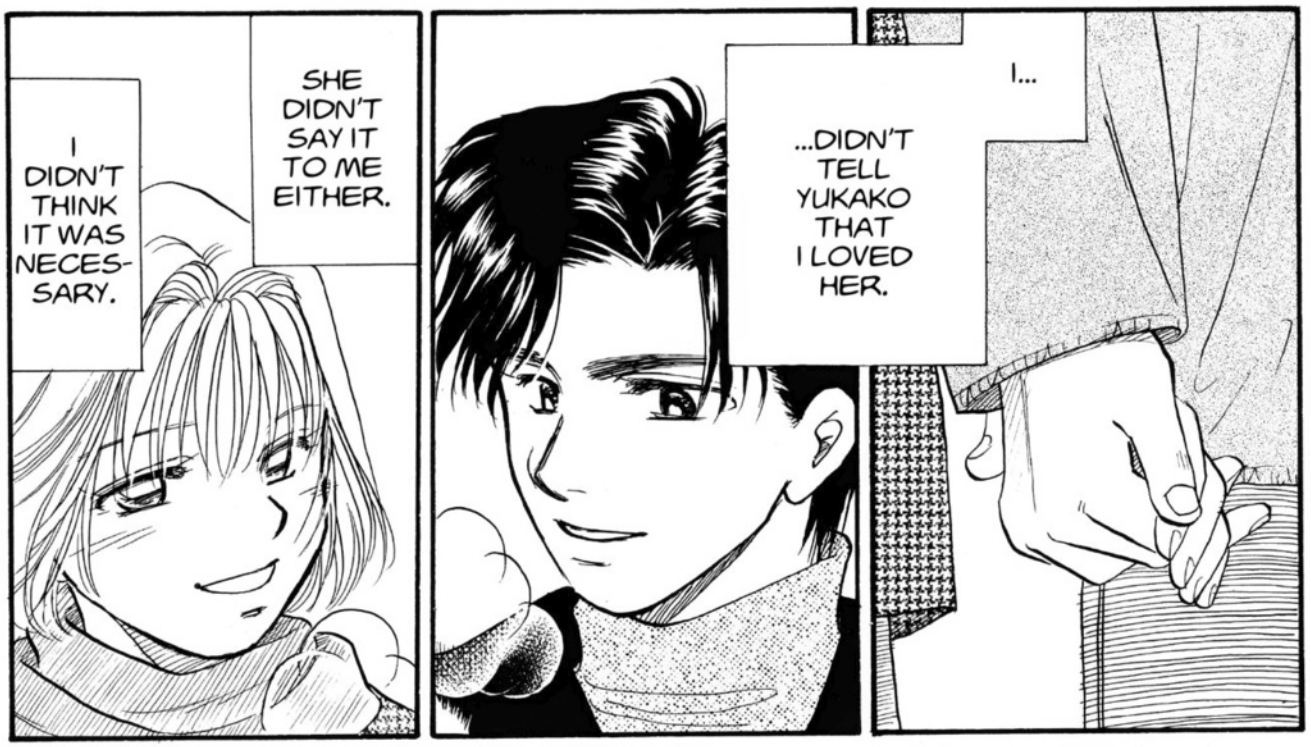
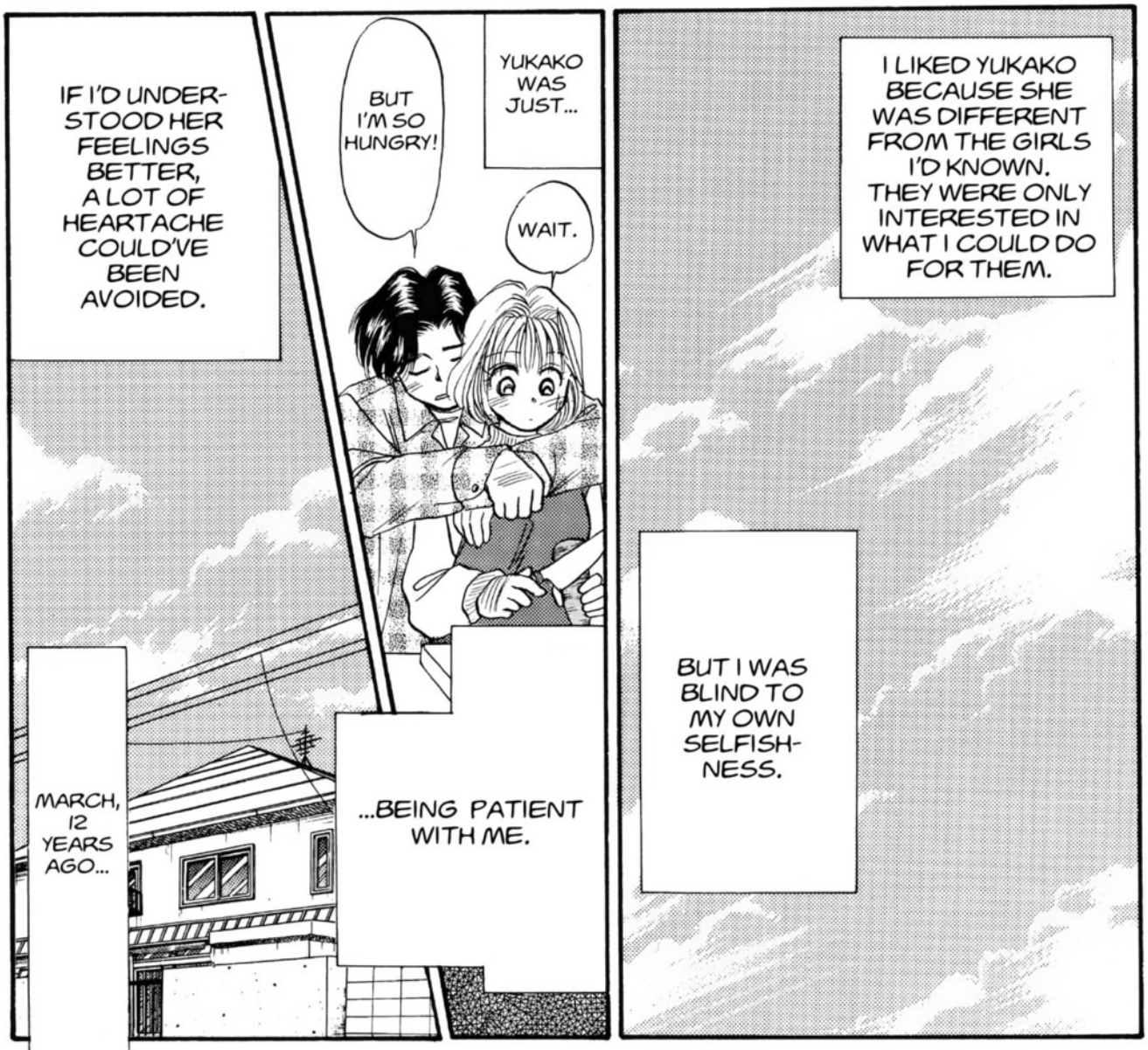

I JUST WISH MITSUE AND JUNICHI COULD SEE THIS.
SIGH ...
I TOLD YOU. SHE'S A SELF-INVITED WIFE.
Harumi's parents
HARUMI'S A CRADLE ROBBER.
SHE'S JUST A KID.
CURIOUS SPECTATORS THE KIMURA FAMILY

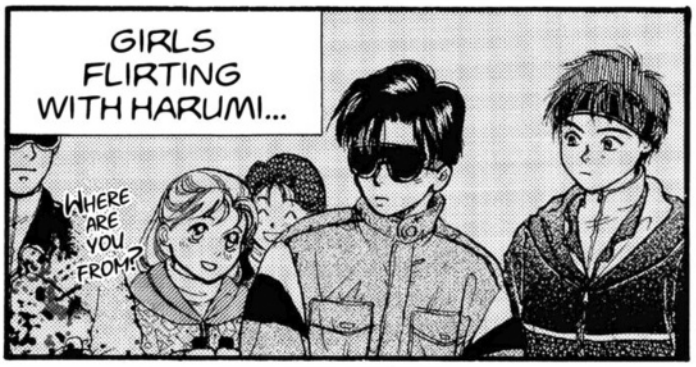

I MANAGED TO MAKE BREAK-FAST...
...OVER-COOKED SCRAM-BLED EGGS, TOAST AND COFFEE.
I HURRIED HOME AFTER CLASS THAT DAY.

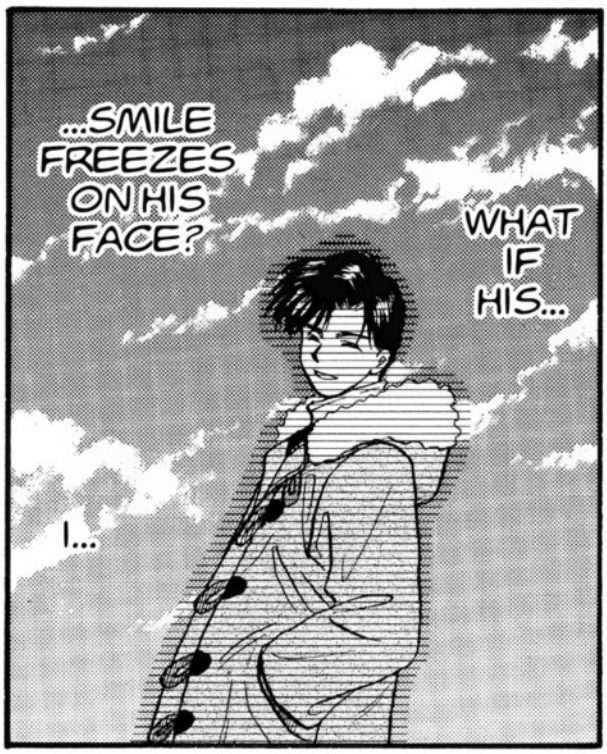

SHE DIDN'T SAY IT TO ME EITHER.
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS NECES-SARY.
I...
...DIDN'T TELL YUKAKO THAT I LOVED HER.


I LIKED YUKAKO BECAUSE SHE WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE GIRLS I'D KNOWN. THEY WERE ONLY INTERESTED IN WHAT I COULD DO FOR THEM.
BUT I WAS BLIND TO MY OWN SELFISH-NESS.
YUKAKO WAS JUST...
BUT I'M SO HUNGRY!
WAIT.
...BEING PATIENT WITH ME.
IF I'D UNDER-STOOD HER FEELINGS BETTER, A LOT OF HEARTACHE COULD'VE BEEN AVOIDED.
MARCH, 12 YEARS AGO...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
KSHHH
KSHHH
MOMMY ...
DADDY ...
COULD I BE PREGNANT?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BLUP
BLUP
DUCKIE ...
ELE-PHANT ...
OUR DAUGHTER'S A GENIUS!
IT'S TRUE!
NO WAY.
HA HA HA
HARUMI WAS AWAY ON A SKIING TRIP.

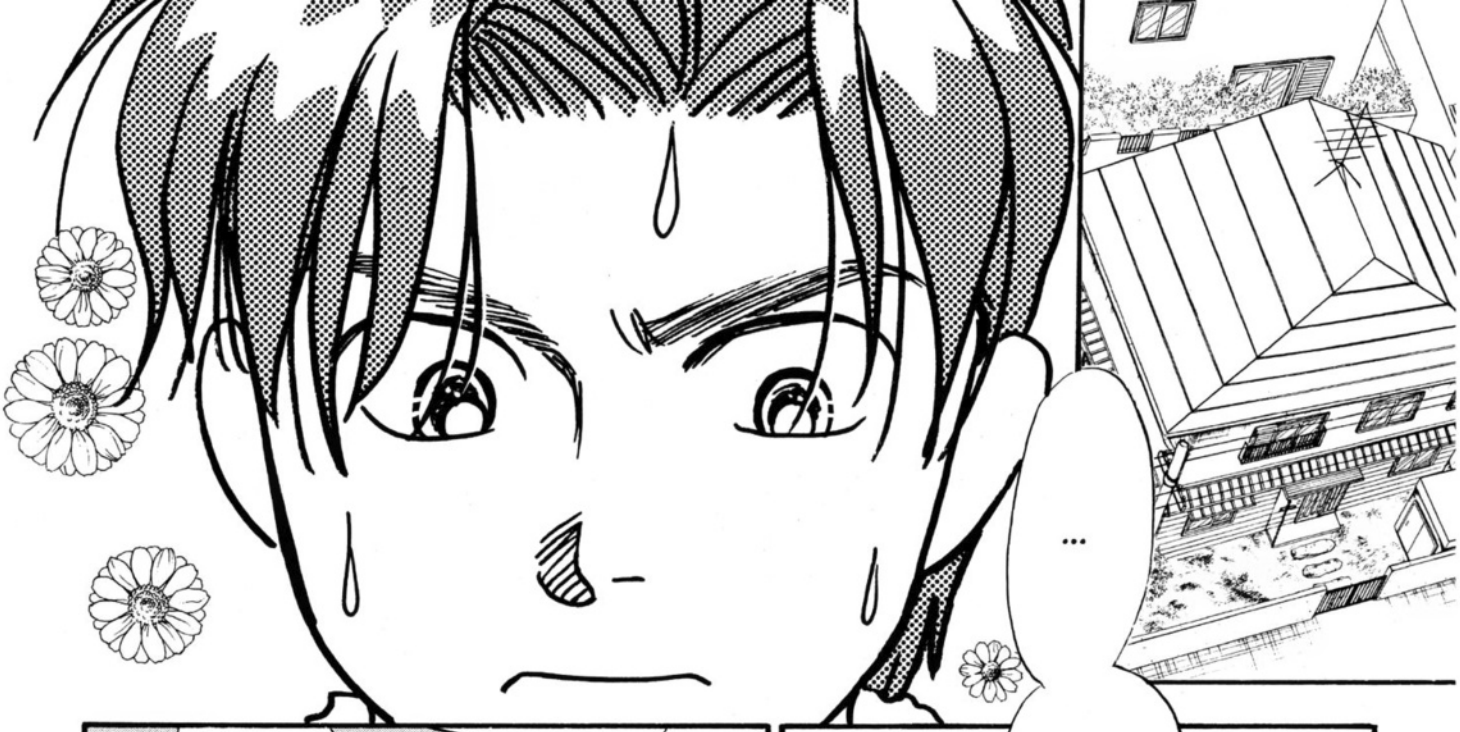
WHAT WILL HARUMI SAY?


GIRLS FLIRTING WITH HARUMI...
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

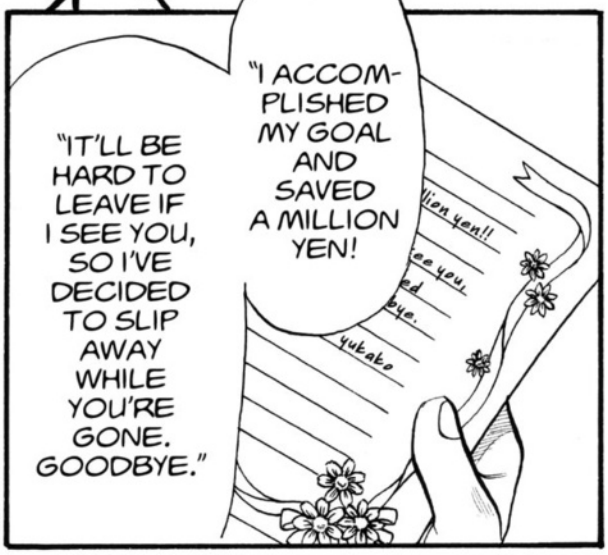

...SMILE FREEZES ON HIS FACE?
WHAT IF HIS...
I...

I'M...
...GOING TO HAVE THIS BABY!

...ABLE TO STAND IT.
I WON'T BE...


...

YUKAKO ...
WHAT THE HECK?
WHY WOULD SHE TAKE OFF WHILE I WAS AWAY?


"I ACCOMPLISHED MY GOAL AND SAVED A MILLION YEN!
"IT'LL BE HARD TO LEAVE IF I SEE YOU, SO I'VE DECIDED TO SLIP AWAY WHILE YOU'RE GONE. GOODBYE."

WHAT ABOUT US?
I...

OH WELL.
I BROUGHT HER A SOUVENIR.
BUT...

SO...
...

THAT WAS THE DEAL, BUT...
SNUMP
...SHE SAVED A MILLION YEN.

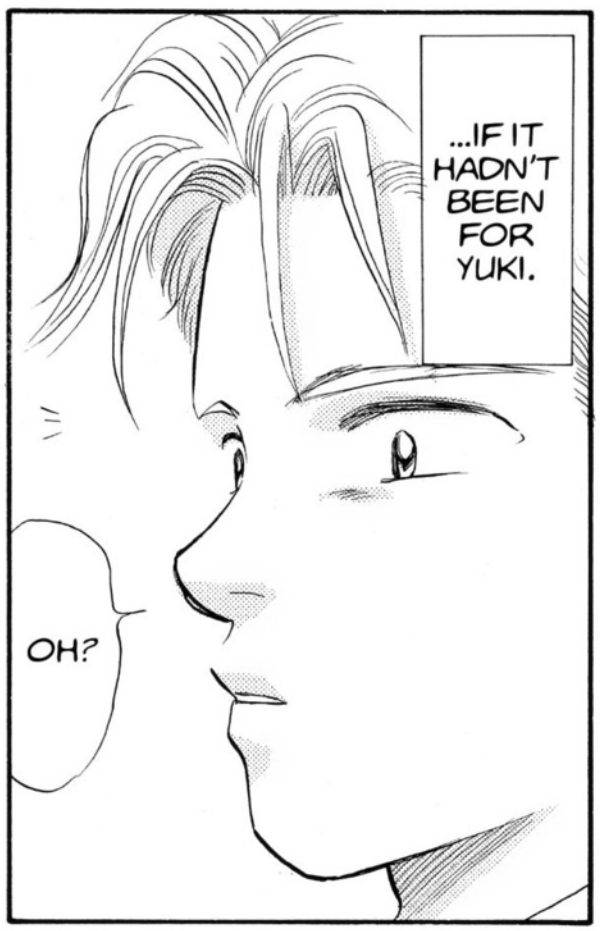
THANK YOU. COME AGAIN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE...
WOOSH

SHE WAS ALL ALONE WITH HER FEARS.
SIGH
I SHOULD'VE TOLD HER HOW I FELT.

I HAVE DEEP FEELINGS FOR HER.

I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU!
HEY!
YUKAKO?
OH.

BUNN
BUNN
BUNN


...IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YUKI.
OH?

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GOING SOME-WHERE.

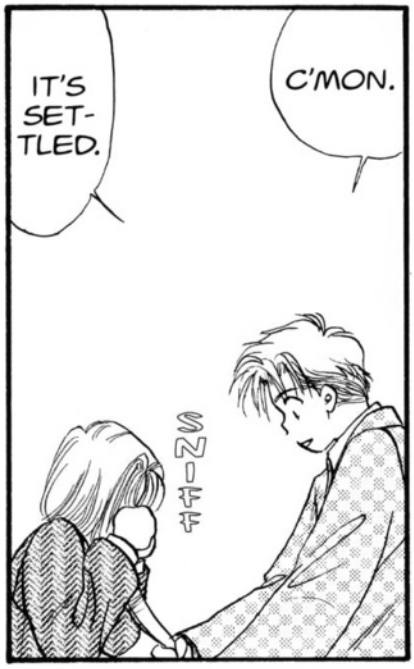
NOTHING! WHY DO YOU ASK?
WHAT?

THAT'S RIGHT. SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU'RE HARUMI'S FRIEND YUKI.
DO YOU RE-MEMBER ME?
SWUMP

DON'T WORRY. UNLIKE HARUMI, I'M A GENTLEMAN.
WIP
WIP

WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY AT MY PLACE?
...

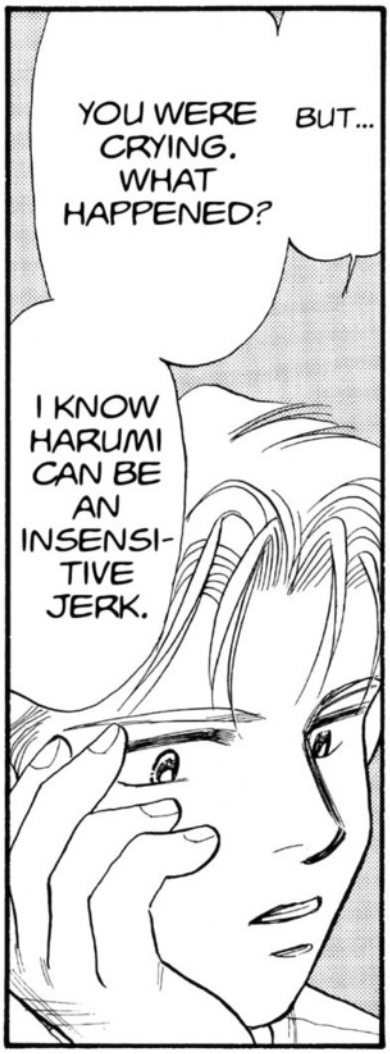
...


IT'S SET-TLED.
C'MON.
SNIFF

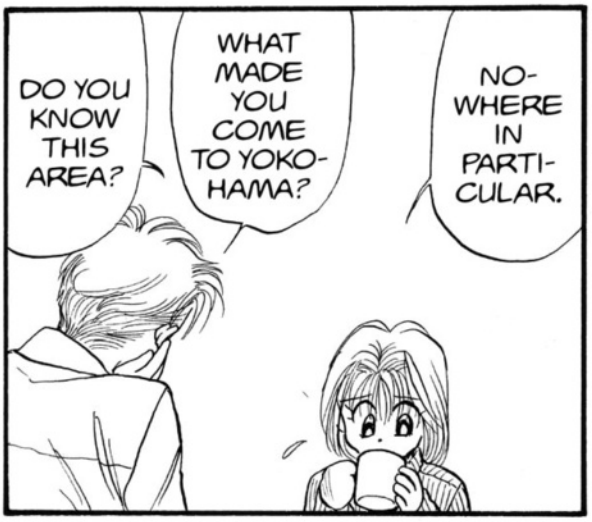
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
OKAY?
...

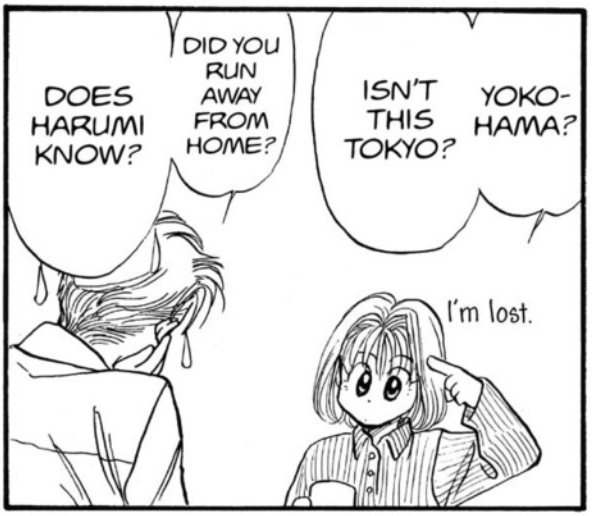
WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER AND GET WARM?
IT'S MARCH, BUT IT'S STILL COLD.

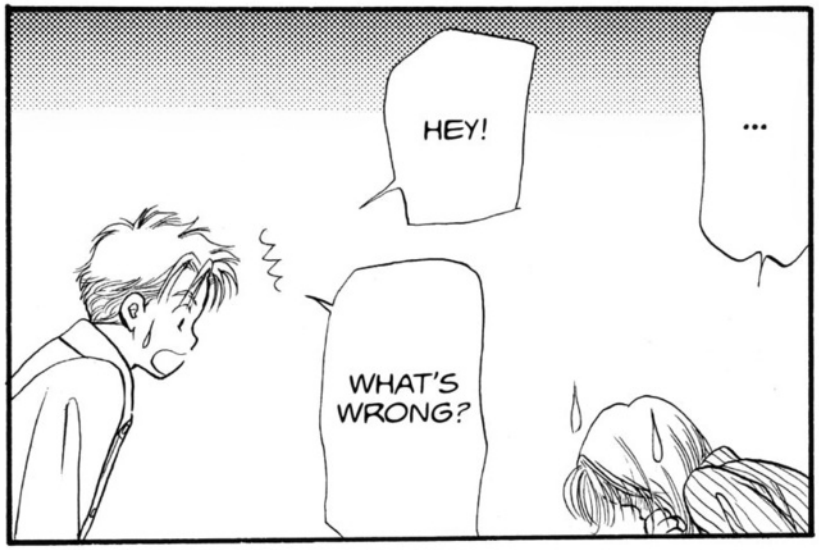
HERE.
IT'S COCOA.
KLAK
THANKS.
WHERE WERE YOU GOING?


YOU WERE CRYING. WHAT HAPPENED?
BUT...
I KNOW HARUMI CAN BE AN INSENSITIVE JERK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I LEFT HIM A NOTE. AND THAT PLACE WAS NEVER MY HOME.


DO YOU KNOW THIS AREA?
WHAT MADE YOU COME TO YOKOHAMA?
NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR.

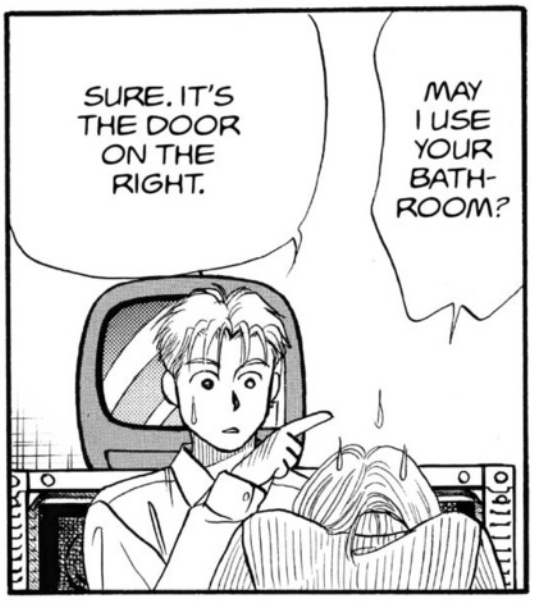

DOES HARUMI KNOW?
DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
ISN'T THIS TOKYO?
YOKOHAMA?
I'm lost.


...
HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG?

NAUSEA

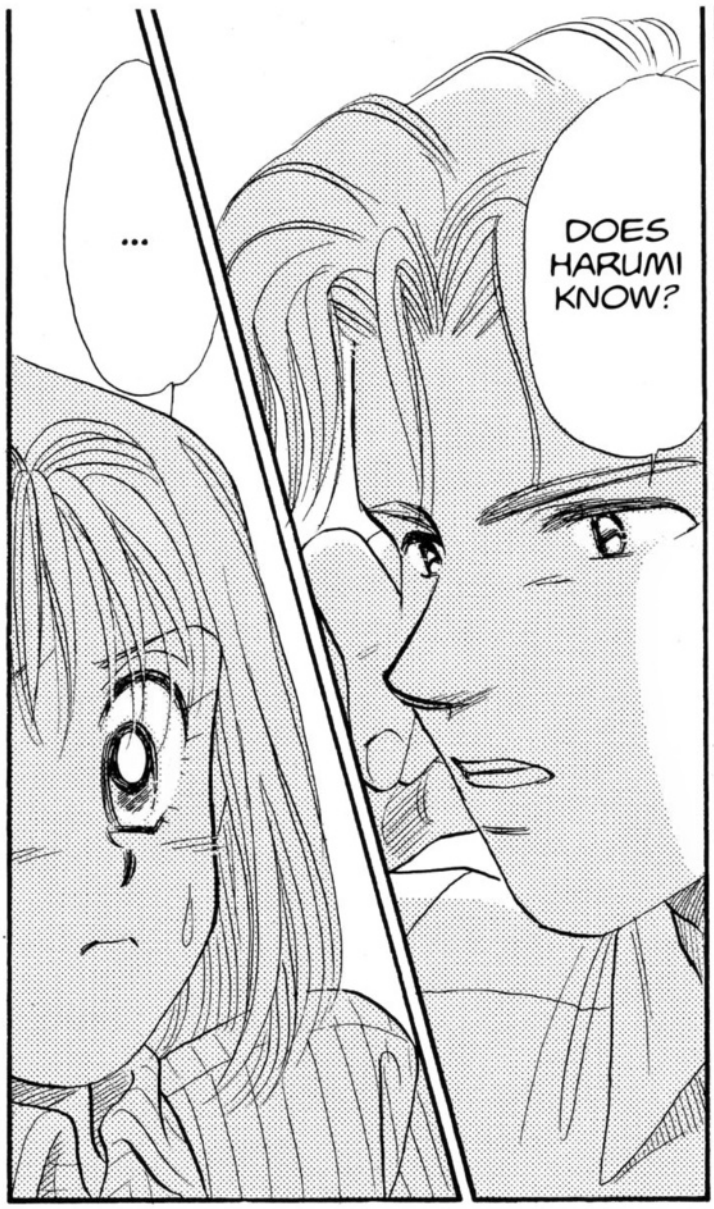
KLAK
OH!
COULD SHE BE...

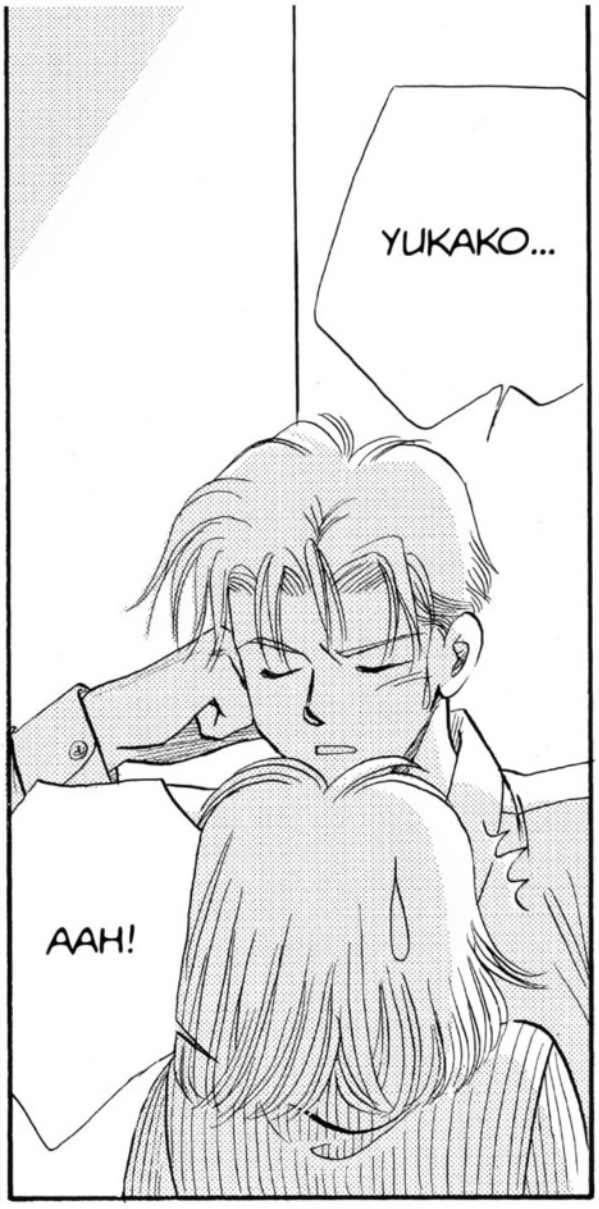
...
SWAY
SWAY

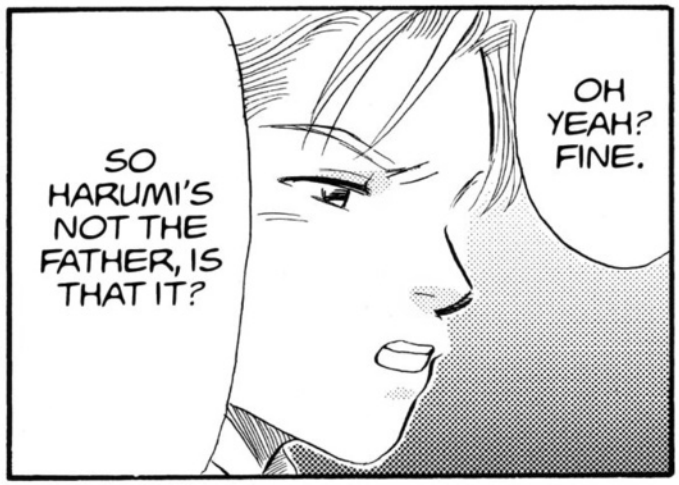

MAY I USE YOUR BATH-ROOM?
SURE. IT'S THE DOOR ON THE RIGHT.

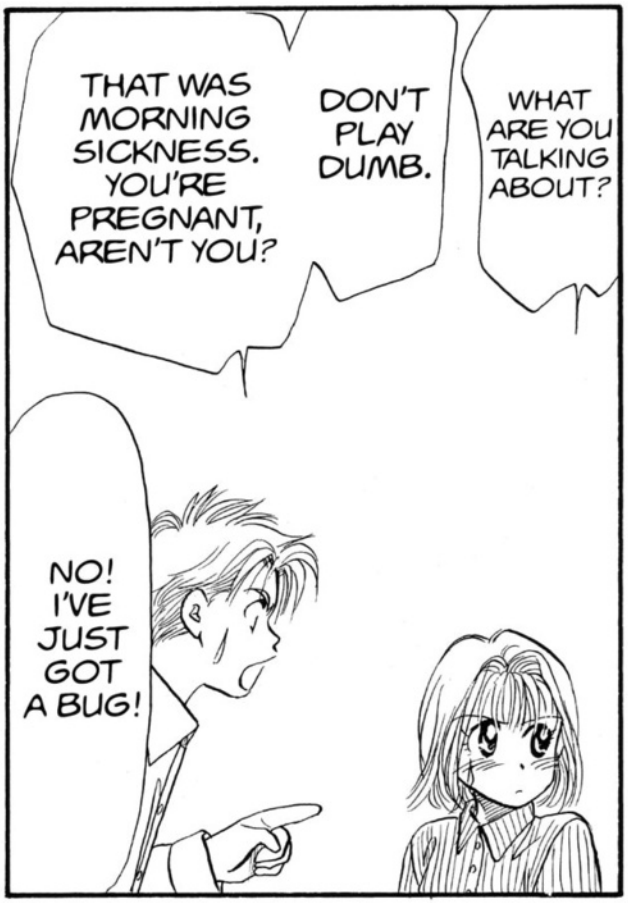
KLAK
UGH...
I'D BETTER AVOID SWEET DRINKS.

BLEGH!
KOFF
BLEGH!
KOFF
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
WAAAH!!
SHE IS!


DOES HARUMI KNOW?
...

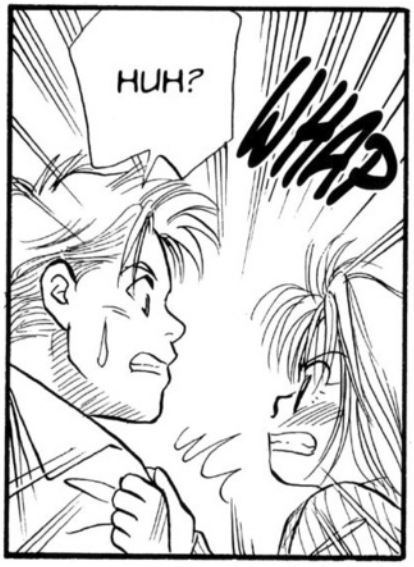

YUKAKO...
AAH!


OH YEAH? FINE.
SO HARUMI'S NOT THE FATHER, IS THAT IT?

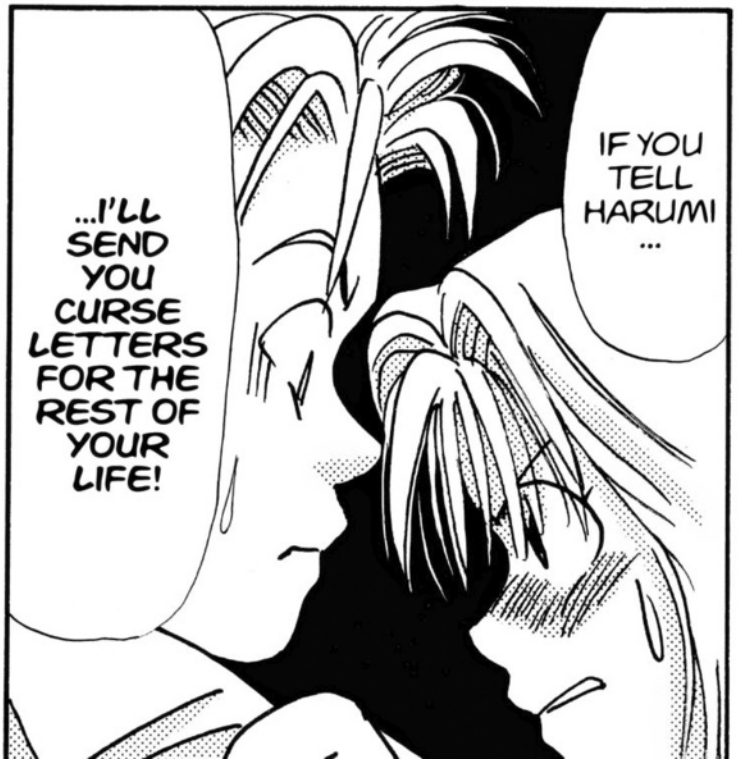

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB.
THAT WAS MORNING SICKNESS. YOU'RE PREGNANT, AREN'T YOU?
NO! I'VE JUST GOT A BUG!

HOW DARE YOU?
I HAVEN'T BEEN WITH ANYONE BUT HARUMI!

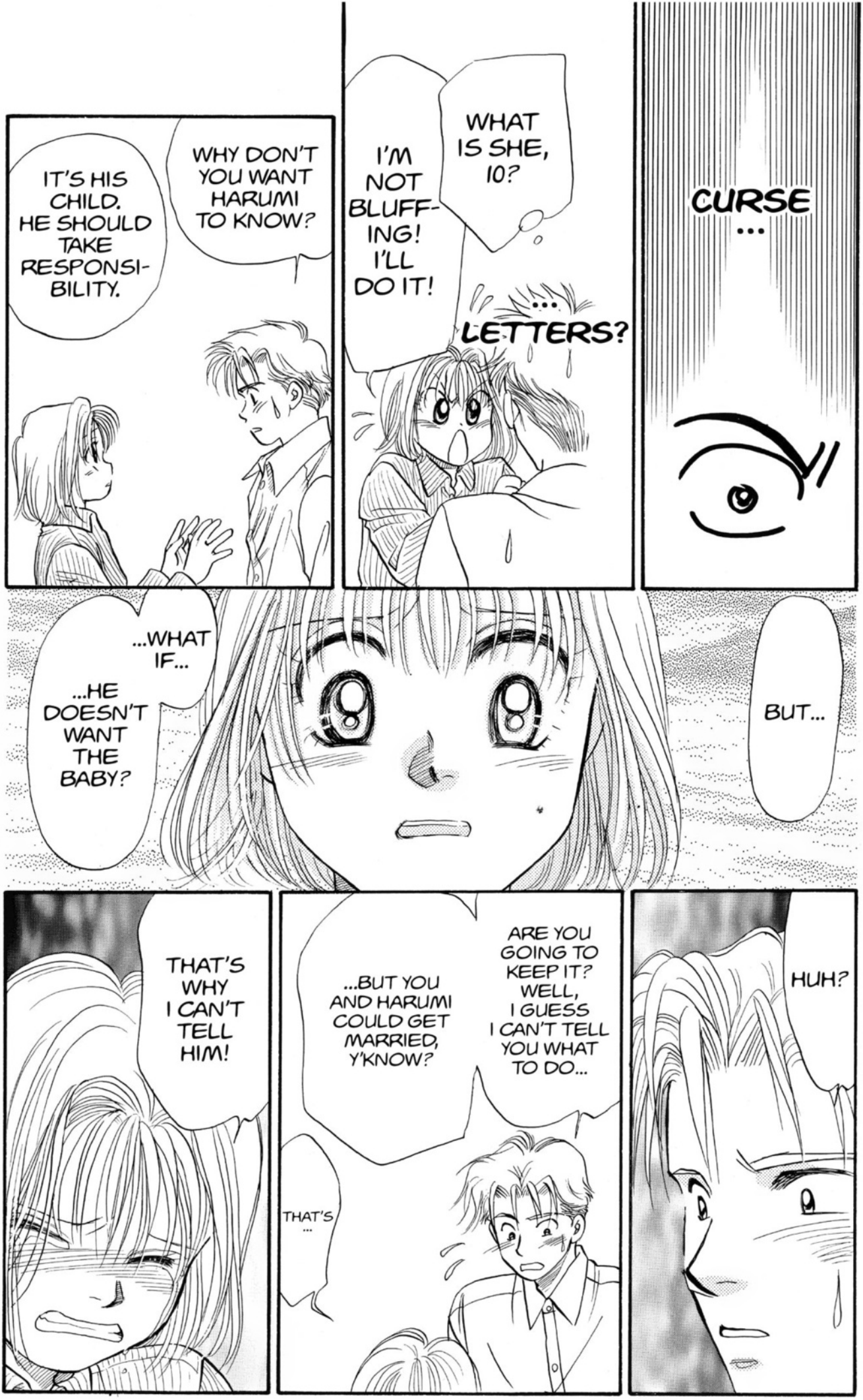
SWAK


HUH?
WHAD

OW...
WHAT AN ARM!


IF YOU TELL HARUMI ...
...I'LL SEND YOU CURSE LETTERS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

THEN...
...YOU ARE PREG-NANT.


CURSE ...
WHAT IS SHE, 10?
I'M NOT BLUFF-ING! I'LL DO IT!
... LETTERS?
WHY DON'T YOU WANT HARUMI TO KNOW?
IT'S HIS CHILD. HE SHOULD TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY.
BUT...
...WHAT IF...
...HE DOESN'T WANT THE BABY?
HUH?
ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP IT? WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT TO DO...
...BUT YOU AND HARUMI COULD GET MARRIED, Y'KNOW?
THAT'S ...
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL HIM!

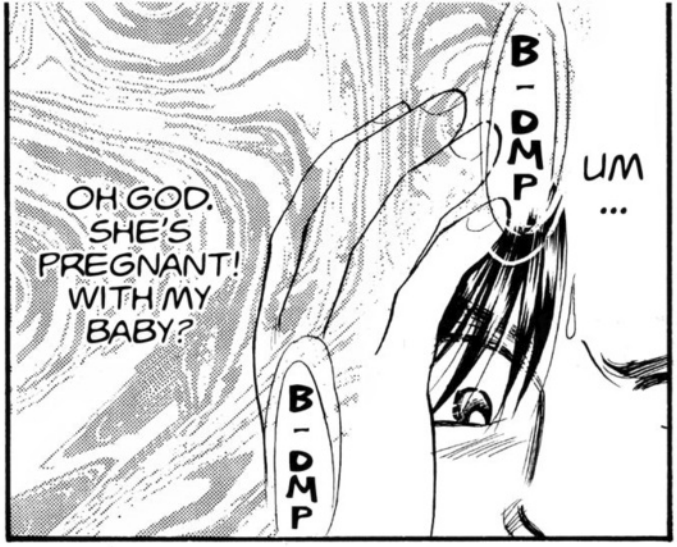
BUT...
...I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM.
AND I'M GOING TO HAVE THIS BABY! I WANT THIS BABY!

HE'S NEVER EVEN TOLD ME HE LOVES ME.
HARUMI ISN'T INTERESTED IN MARRIAGE.
SNIFF
SNIFF

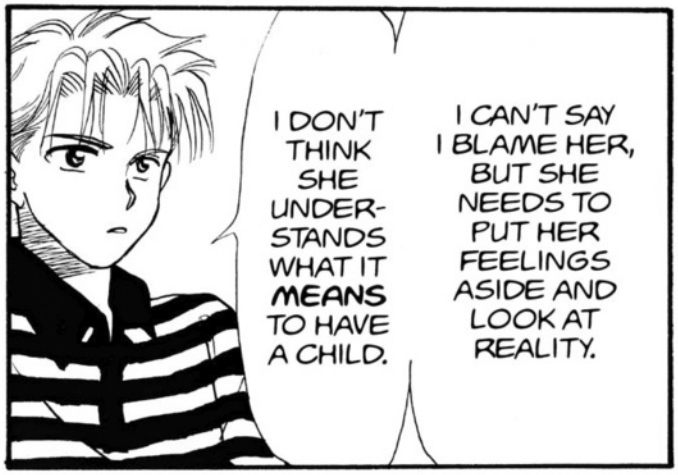
PREG-NANT?
HUH?

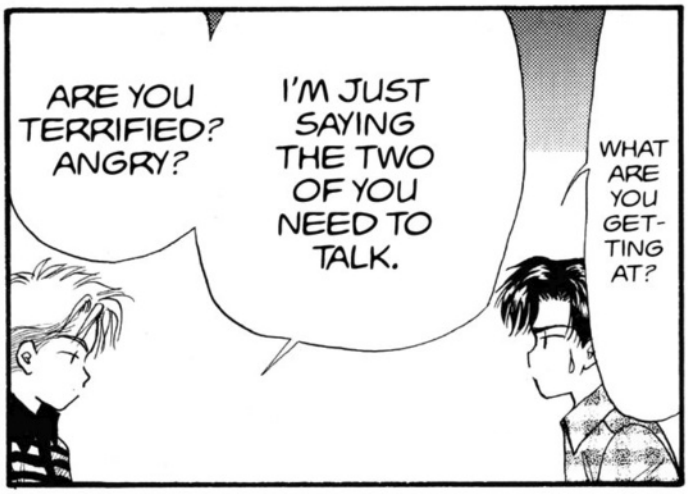
THE NEXT DAY...
...YUKI TOLD ME THAT YUKAKO WAS PREGNANT.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL HIM.

BUT IF I TOLD HARUMI ...
...AND HE DIDN'T WANT IT TOO, IT WOULD BE TOO SAD.

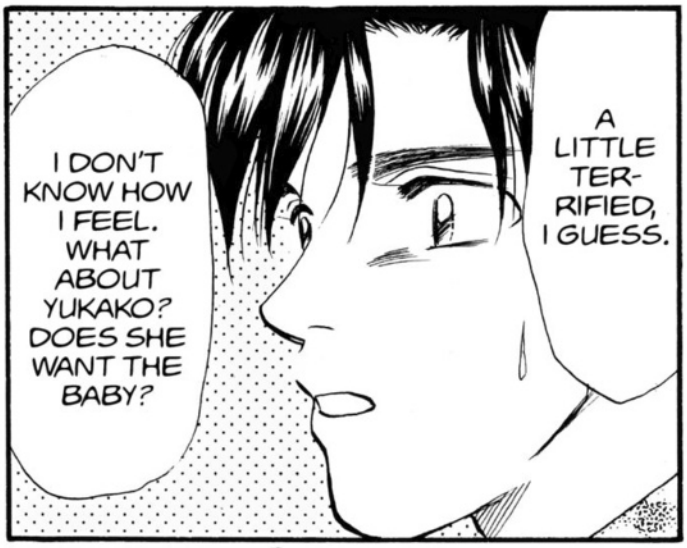

OH GOD. SHE'S PREGNANT! WITH MY BABY?
B-DMP
B-DMP
UM ...

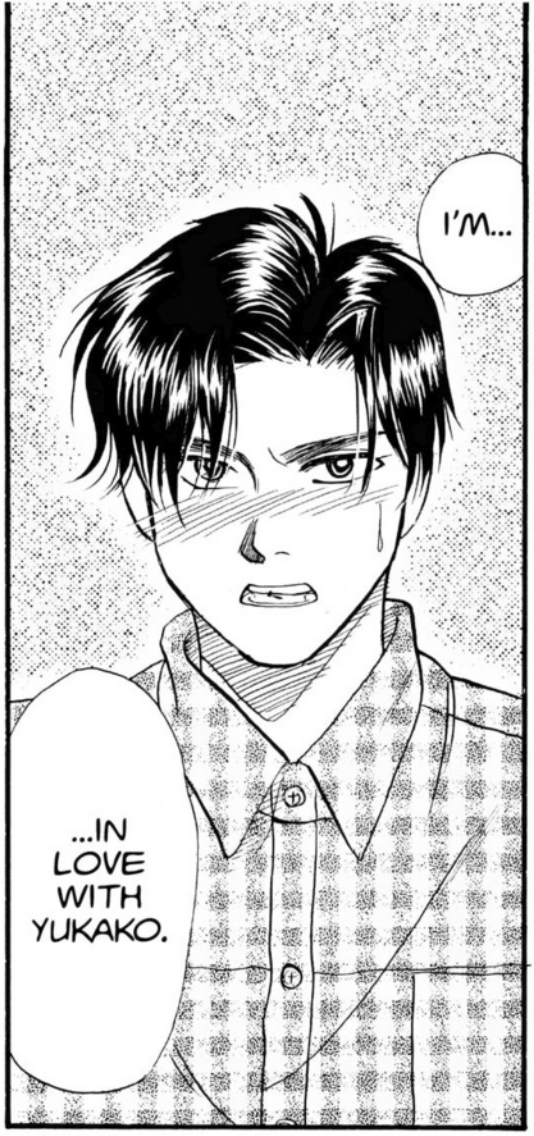
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
PREGNANT? YUKAKO? BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, WHY DID SHE LEAVE?
YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF THAT. ANYWAY, SHE'S STAYING WITH ME.

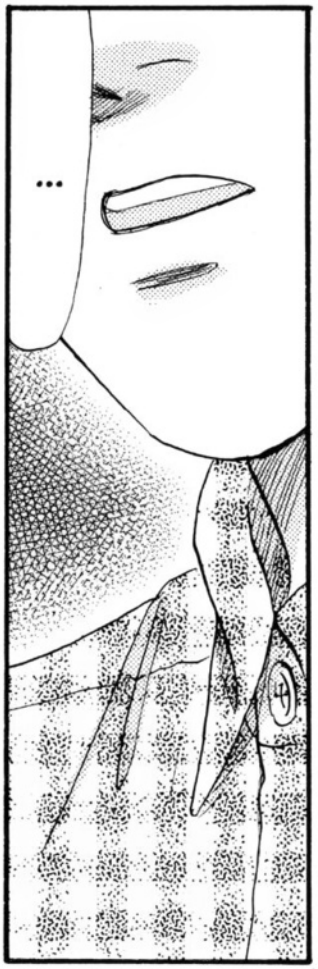

I CAN'T SAY I BLAME HER, BUT SHE NEEDS TO PUT HER FEELINGS ASIDE AND LOOK AT REALITY.
I DON'T THINK SHE UNDER-STANDS WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A CHILD.

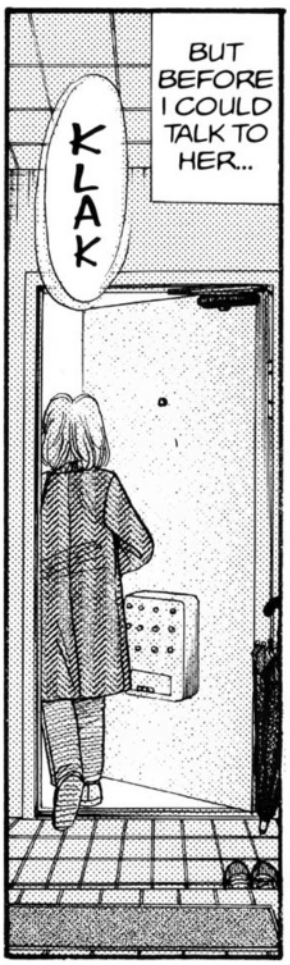

WHAT ARE YOU GET-TING AT?
I'M JUST SAYING THE TWO OF YOU NEED TO TALK.
ARE YOU TERRIFIED? ANGRY?

YOU HAVE TO DECIDE NOW.
IF YOU DON'T WANT THE BABY, YOU CAN'T SEE YUKAKO! FORGET WHAT I TOLD YOU!
YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT, BUT WHAT THAT CHILD NEEDS IS LOVE.


A LITTLE TER-RIFIED, I GUESS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL. WHAT ABOUT YUKAKO? DOES SHE WANT THE BABY?

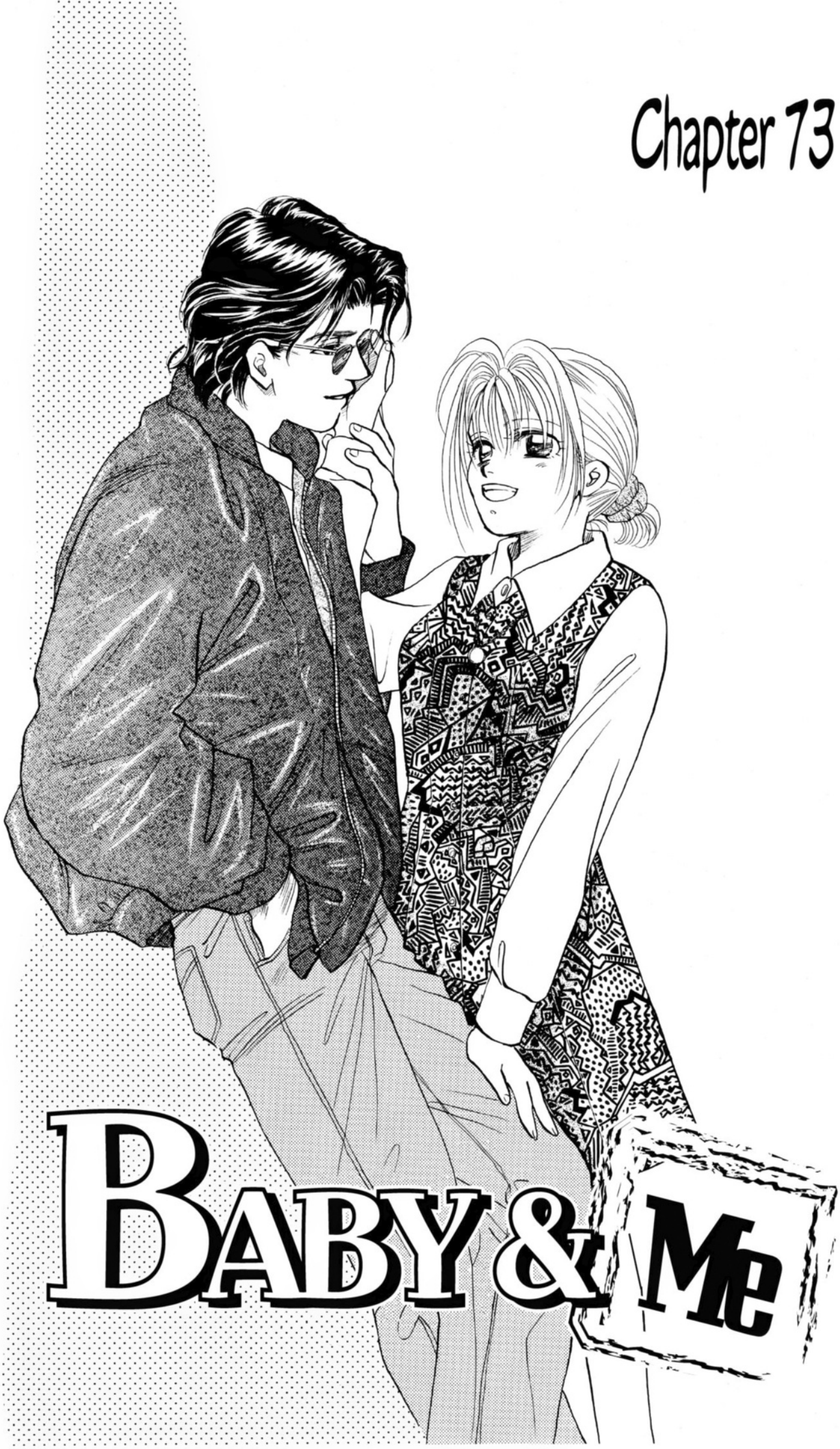


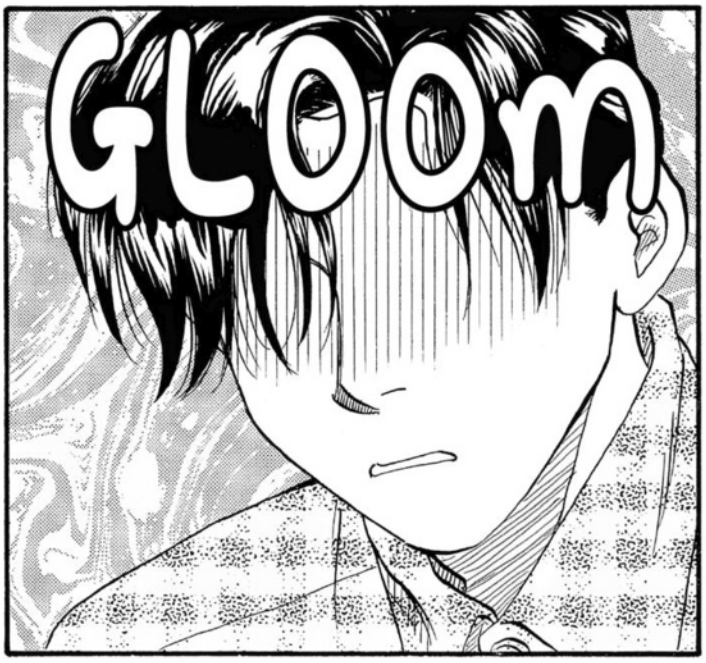




Chapter 72 / The End

Chapter 73



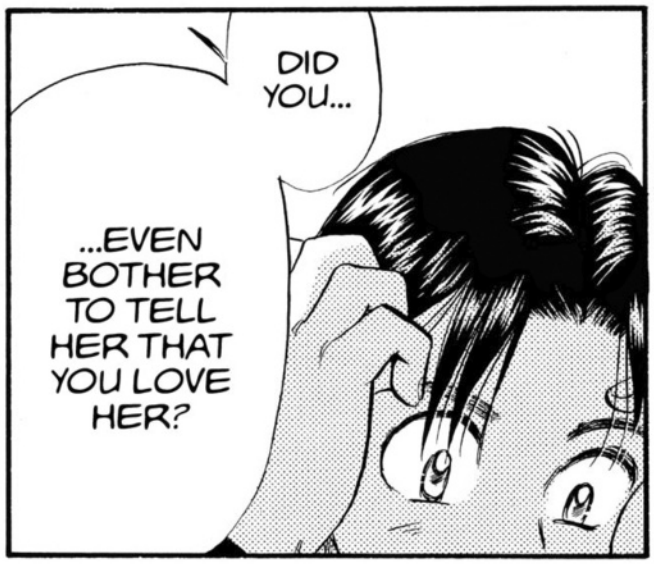

GLOOM

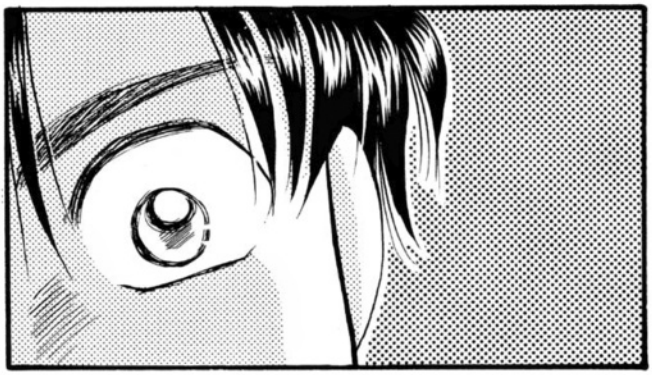
IT WAS MARCH, 12 YEARS AGO...
...AND YUKAKO HAD DISAP-PEARED.
BRRR...
ENGLISH CONVER-SATION SCHOOL ABC CLUB
Kinokuniya

HARUMI! WANT SOME COFFEE?

YOU TOLD ME YUKAKO WOULD BE HERE!
YOU'RE A LIAR.
GRR
GRR
TAKE IT EASY.

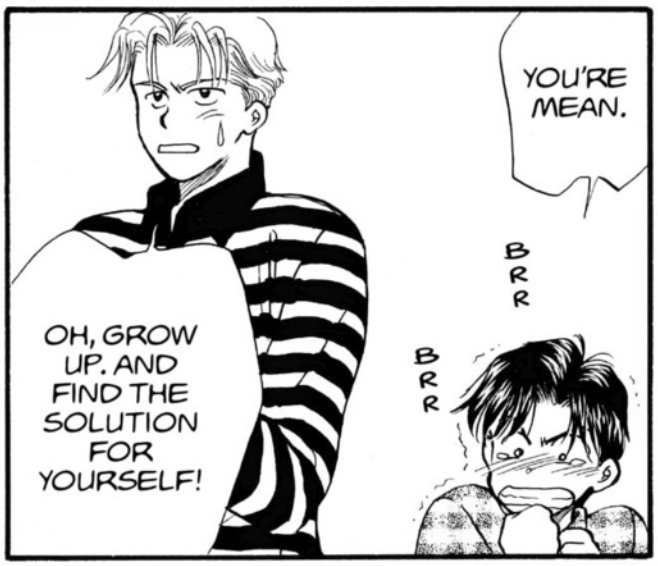
DO YOU KNOW WHY SHE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING YOU SHE WAS PREGNANT?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
W-WOMANIZER?
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
YOU DROVE HER AWAY, YOU WOMANIZER!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT SHE LEFT!


DID YOU...
...EVEN BOTHER TO TELL HER THAT YOU LOVE HER?



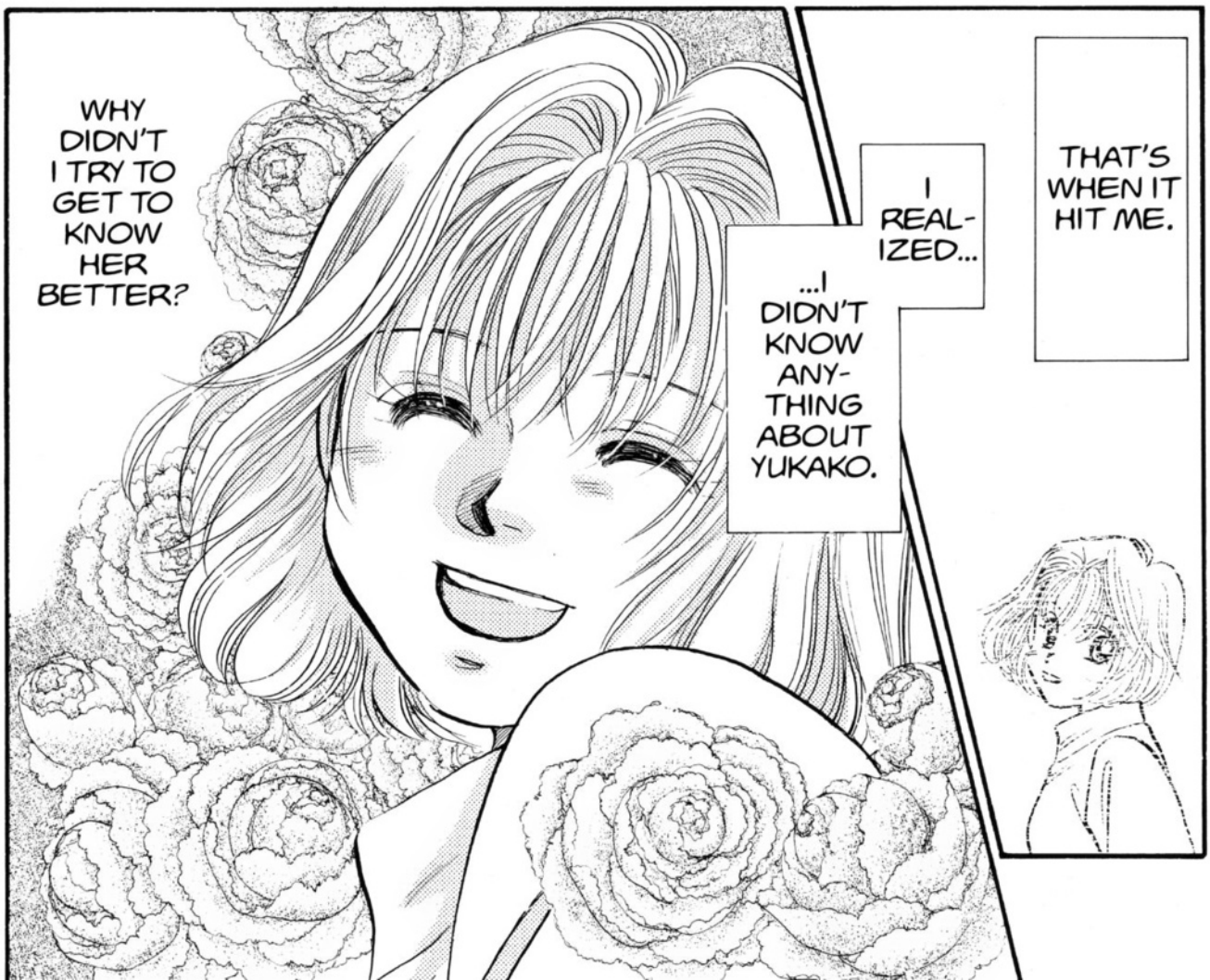
YOU HAVE TO TELL A WOMAN HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER! SHE CAN'T READ YOUR MIND!
ARE YOU BRAIN-DAMAGED?
NO, BUT WASN'T IT OBVIOUS? WE WERE IN AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP!

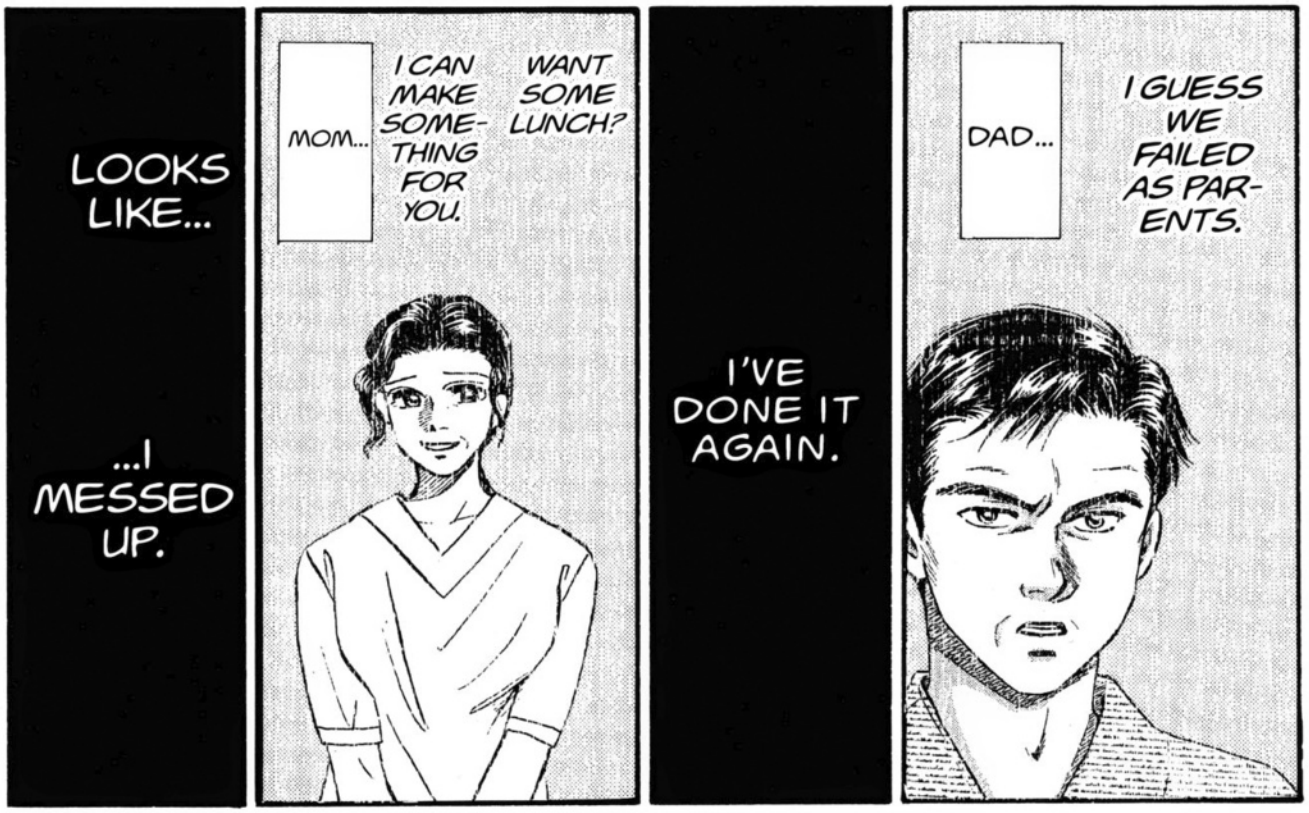
NO.
BECAUSE...
...YOU'RE AN INSENSITIVE JERK.


YOU'RE MEAN.
BRR
BRR
OH, GROW UP. AND FIND THE SOLUTION FOR YOURSELF!

HOW WAS SHE SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT HER?
AND YOU ARE A WOMANIZER!
DOOM

SOLUTION?
WHAT DO I DO?

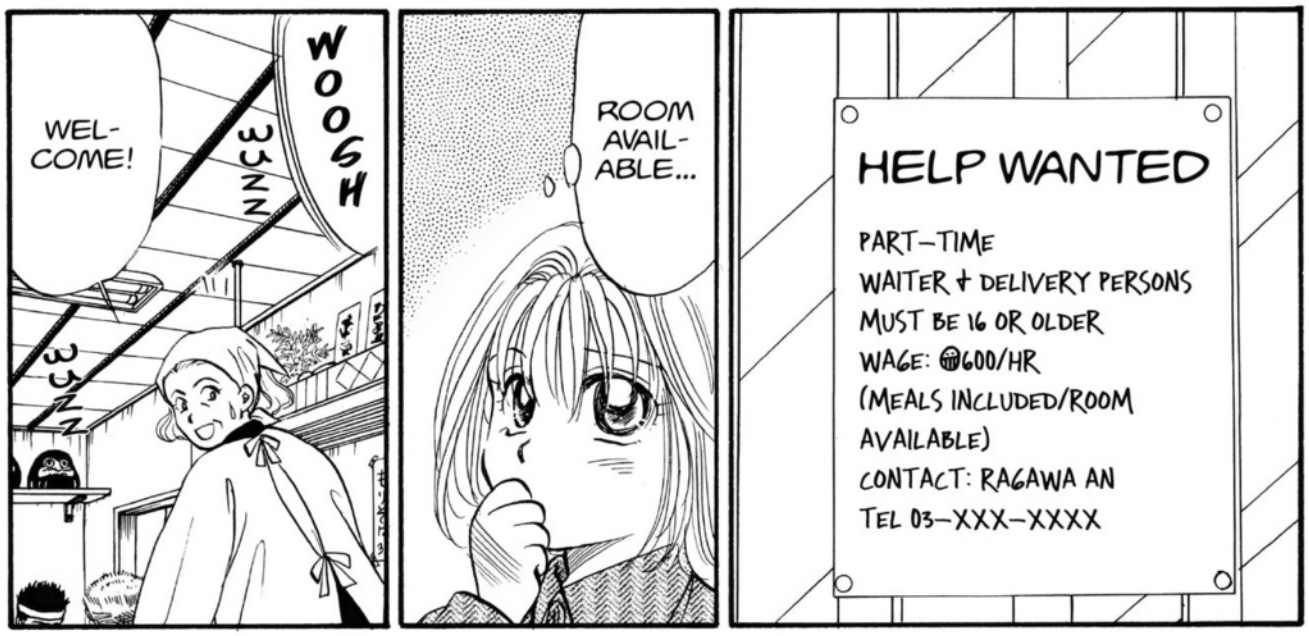

WHY DIDN'T I TRY TO GET TO KNOW HER BETTER?
I REALIZED...
...I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YUKAKO.
THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME.

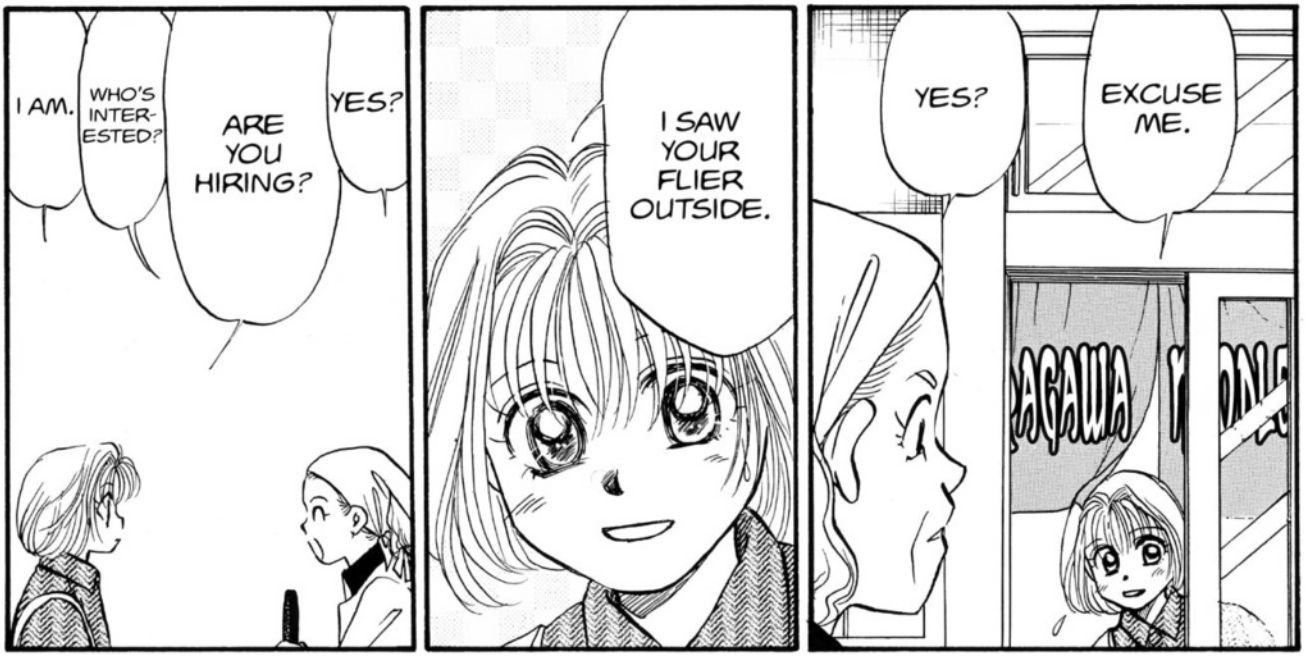

LOOKS LIKE...
...I MESSED UP.
MOM...
I CAN MAKE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
WANT SOME LUNCH?
I'VE DONE IT AGAIN.
DAD...
I GUESS WE FAILED AS PARENTS.

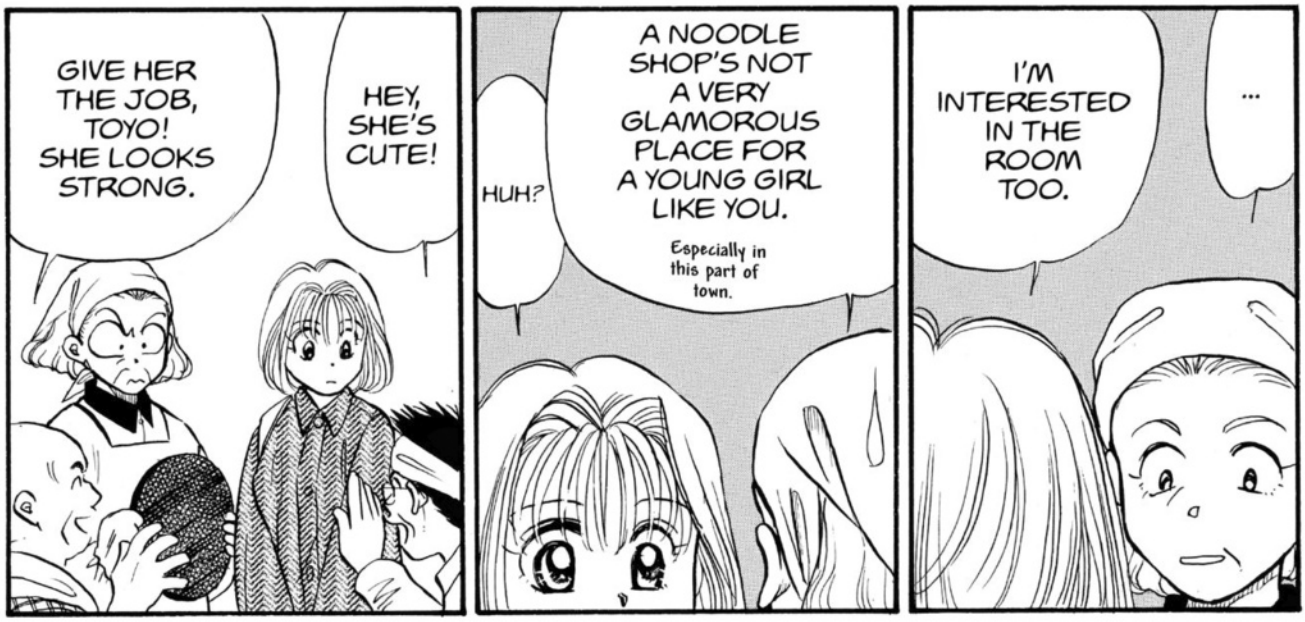
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
YUKIYA
WA STORE

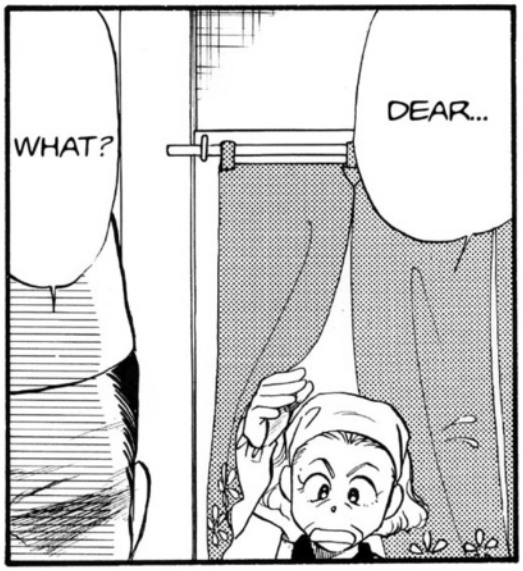
I LOST SOMEONE ELSE I LOVED ...
...WITHOUT TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW HER.

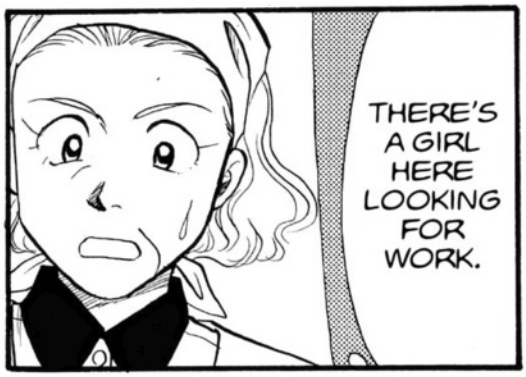
AN
RAGAWA
HELP WANTED
Part-Time
Waiter & Delivery Persons
...


WOOSH
WUNN
WUNN
WEL-COME!
ROOM AVAIL-ABLE...
HELP WANTED
PART-TIME
WAITER + DELIVERY PERSONS
MUST BE 16 OR OLDER
WAGE: ¥600/HR
(MEALS INCLUDED/ROOM AVAILABLE)
CONTACT: RAGAWA AN
TEL 03-XXX-XXXX

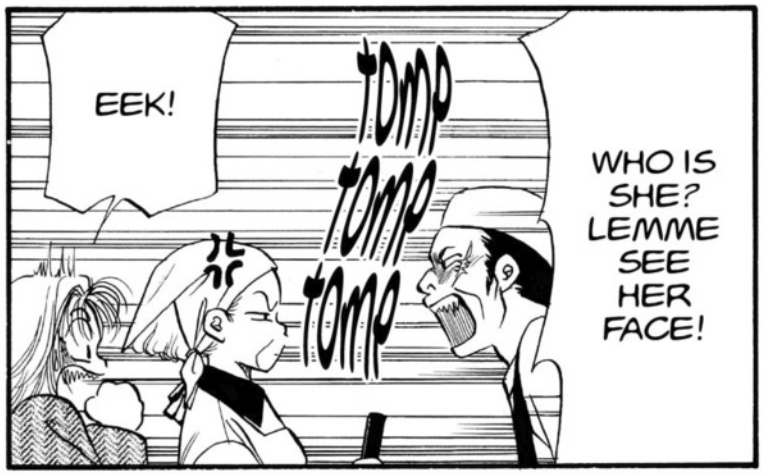

I AM.
WHO'S INTER-ESTED?
ARE YOU HIRING?
YES?
I SAW YOUR FLIER OUTSIDE.
YES?
EXCUSE ME.

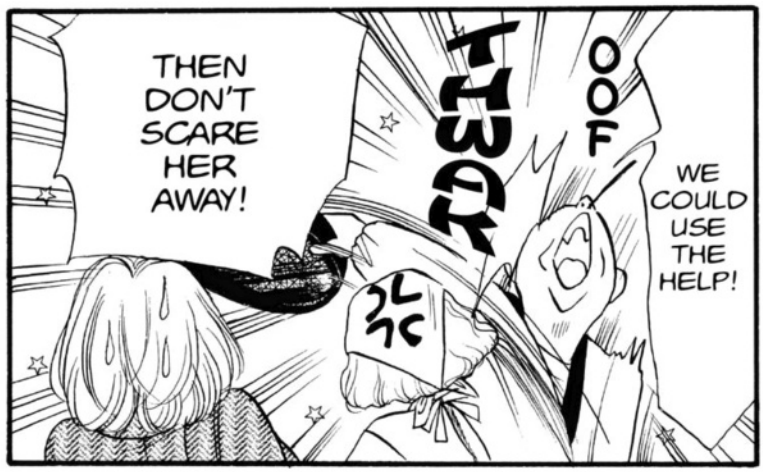

GIVE HER THE JOB, TOYO! SHE LOOKS STRONG.
HEY, SHE'S CUTE!
HUH?
A NOODLE SHOP'S NOT A VERY GLAMOROUS PLACE FOR A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU.
Especially in this part of town.
I'M INTERESTED IN THE ROOM TOO.
...

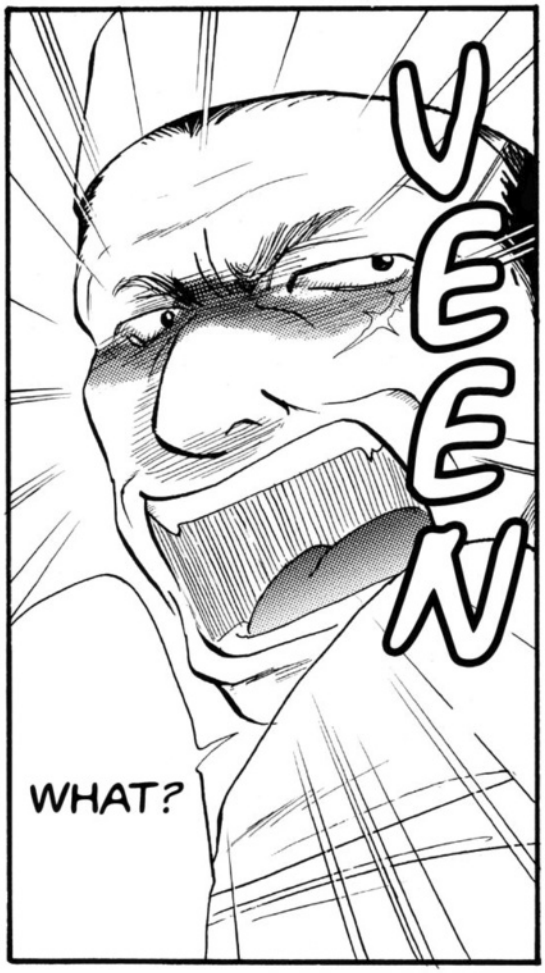

DEAR...
WHAT?


THERE'S A GIRL HERE LOOKING FOR WORK.

WHAM
WHOA!!
DON'T GET ANY IDEAS, YOU DIRTY OLD MEN!

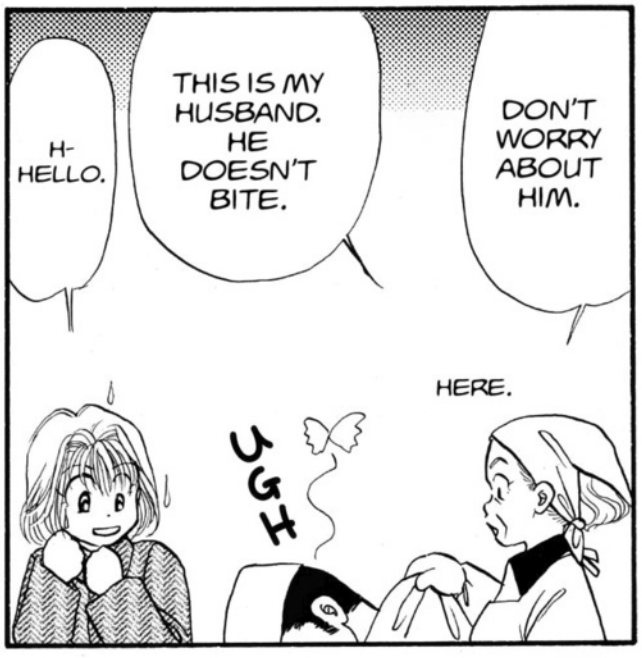

EEK!
TOMP TOMP TOMP
WHO IS SHE? LEMME SEE HER FACE!

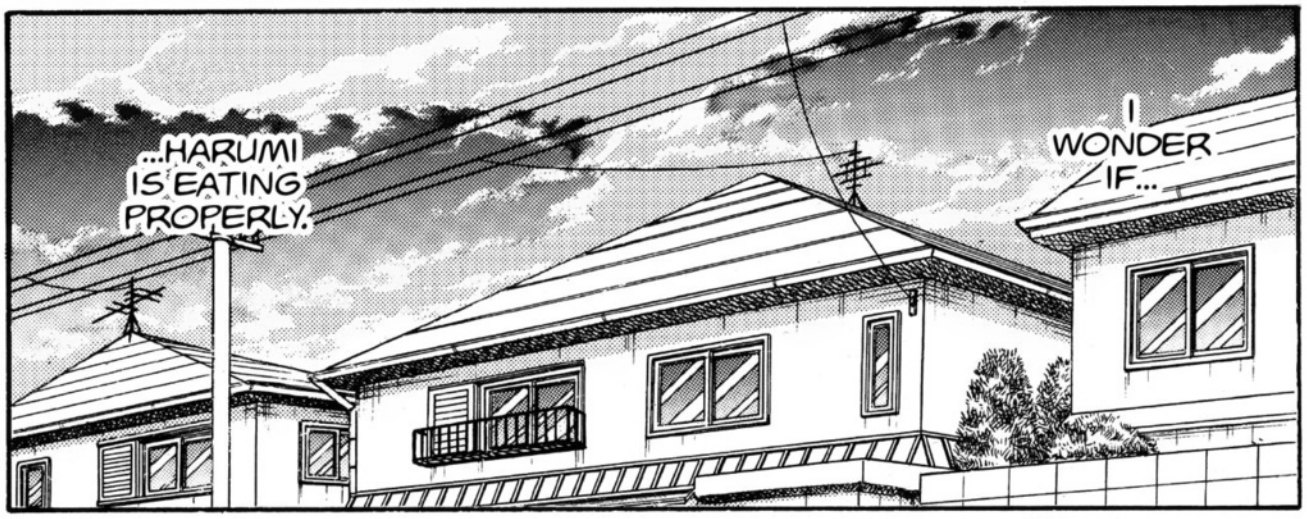

THEN DON'T SCARE HER AWAY!
THWACK
OOF
WE COULD USE THE HELP!


VEEN
WHAT?

ALL RIGHT.
I CAN DO ANYTHING.

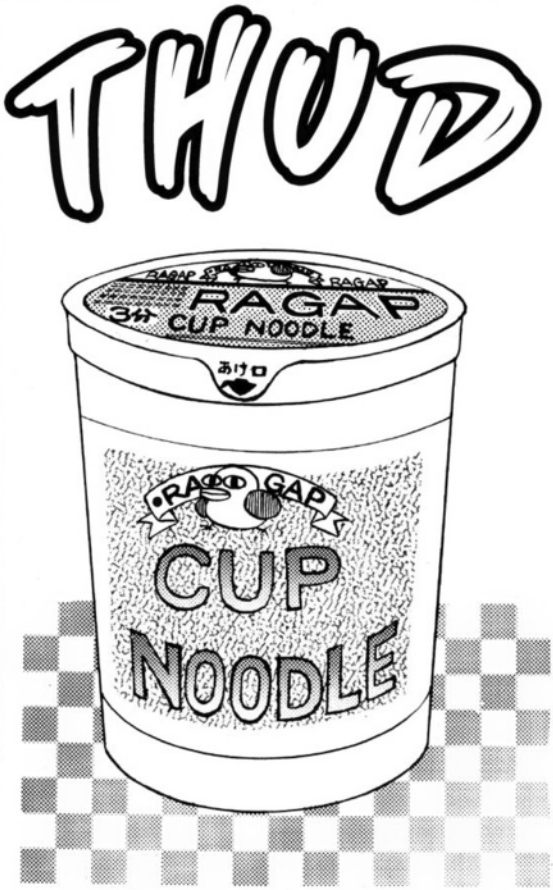
...


H-HELLO.
THIS IS MY HUSBAND. HE DOESN'T BITE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HERE.
ぶるる


...HARUMI IS EATING PROPERLY.
I WONDER IF...

WHAT IF SHE'S ALREADY LEFT THE COUNTRY?
KLIK

I HAD NO CLUE WHERE YUKAKO WAS.
ACTUALLY, I WAS LOST.
THAT'S THREE MINUTES.
POP


THUD
RAGAP
CUP NOODLE
RAGAP
CUP
NOODLE

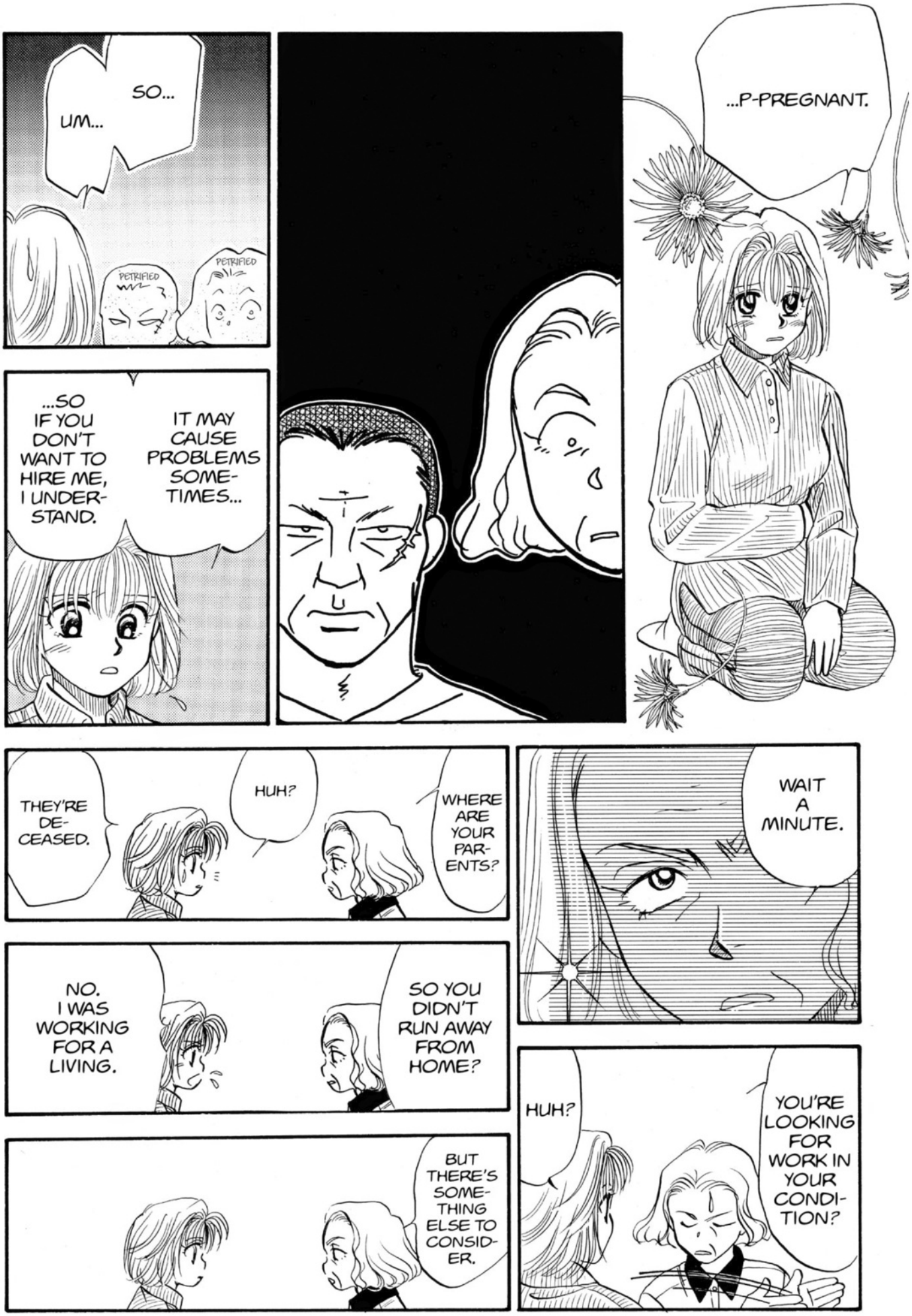
Author's Note Part 5

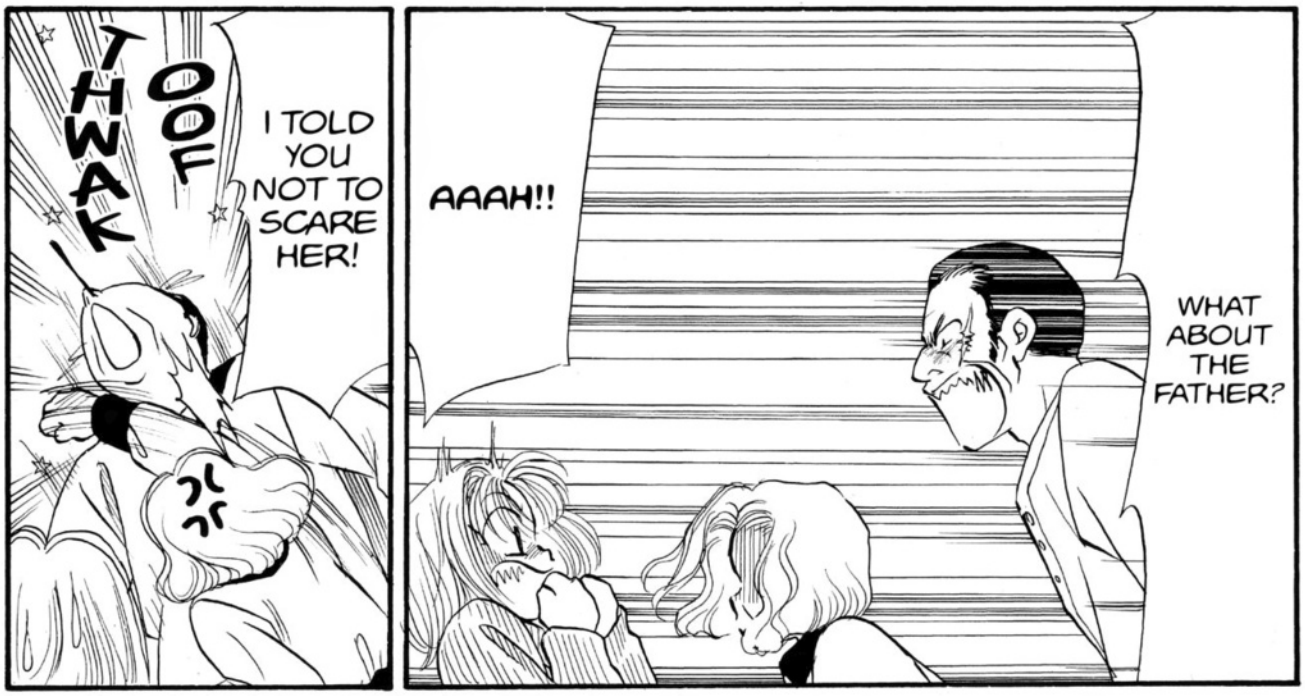
Let Me Draw What I Want!
By Request

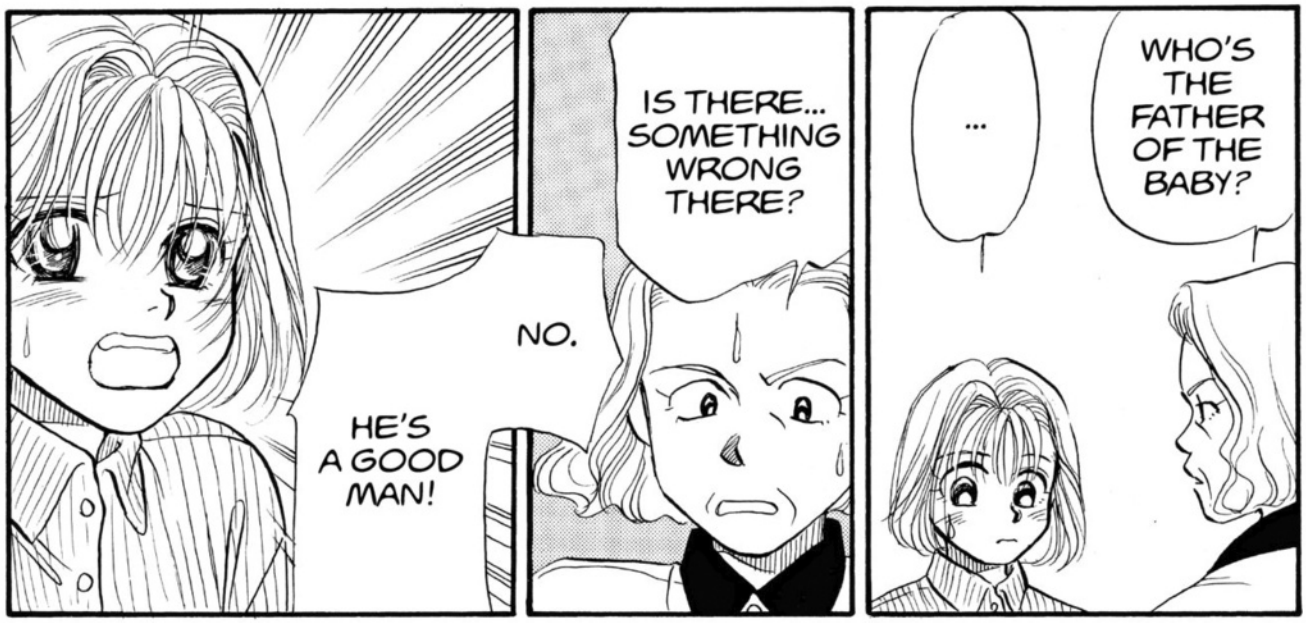
From Interview with the Vampire

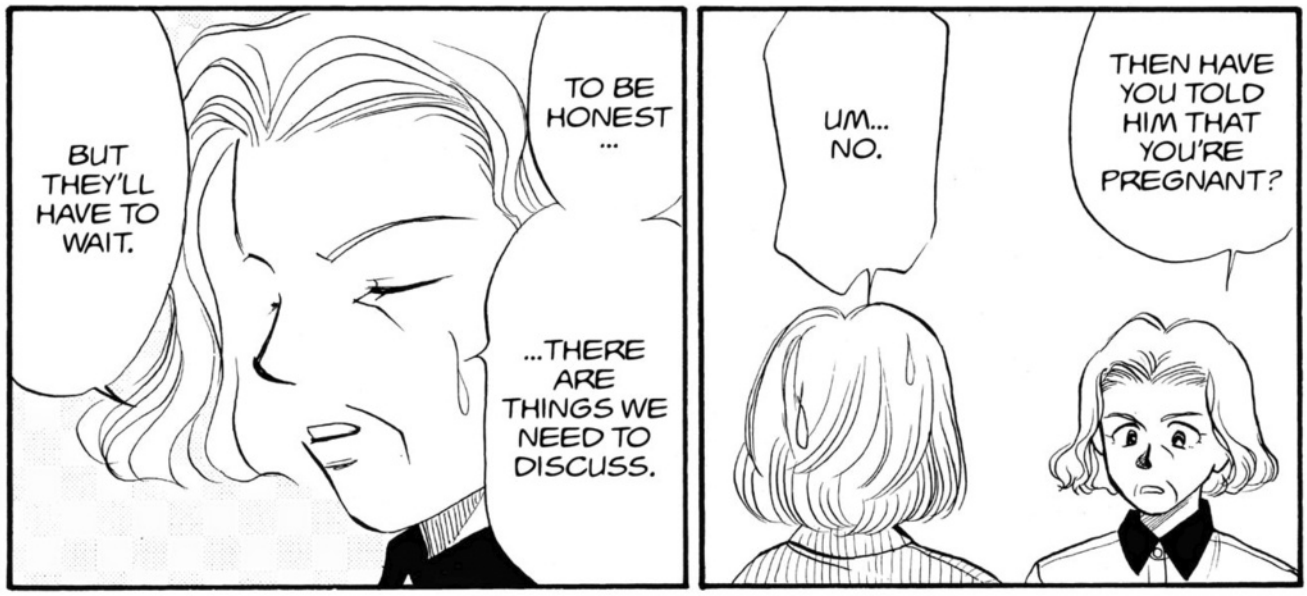
Tom Cruise as Lestat

I drew cute boys in my previous Author's Notes, so it's time for something scary.
I've told you many times it's difficult to draw real-life people!
My apologies to Tom Cruise fans.


UM...
SO...
PETRIFIED
PETRIFIED
...SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HIRE ME, I UNDERSTAND.
IT MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS SOMETIMES...
...P-PREGNANT.
THEY'RE DECEASED.
HUH?
WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?
WAIT A MINUTE.
NO. I WAS WORKING FOR A LIVING.
SO YOU DIDN'T RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE TO CONSIDER.
HUH?
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WORK IN YOUR CONDITION?


I TOLD YOU NOT TO SCARE HER!
OOF
THWAK
AAAH!!
WHAT ABOUT THE FATHER?

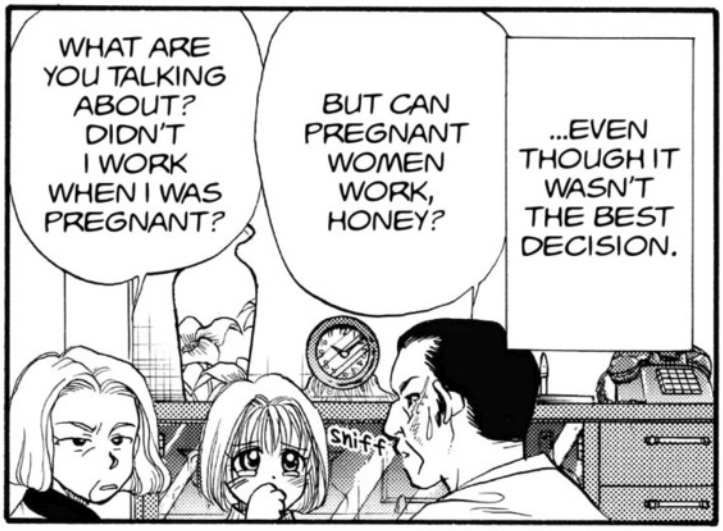

HE'S A GOOD MAN!
NO.
IS THERE... SOMETHING WRONG THERE?
...
WHO'S THE FATHER OF THE BABY?


BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO WAIT.
TO BE HONEST ...
...THERE ARE THINGS WE NEED TO DISCUSS.
UM... NO.
THEN HAVE YOU TOLD HIM THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT?

I...

...THAT YOU'LL TELL YOUR BOYFRIEND EVERYTHING.

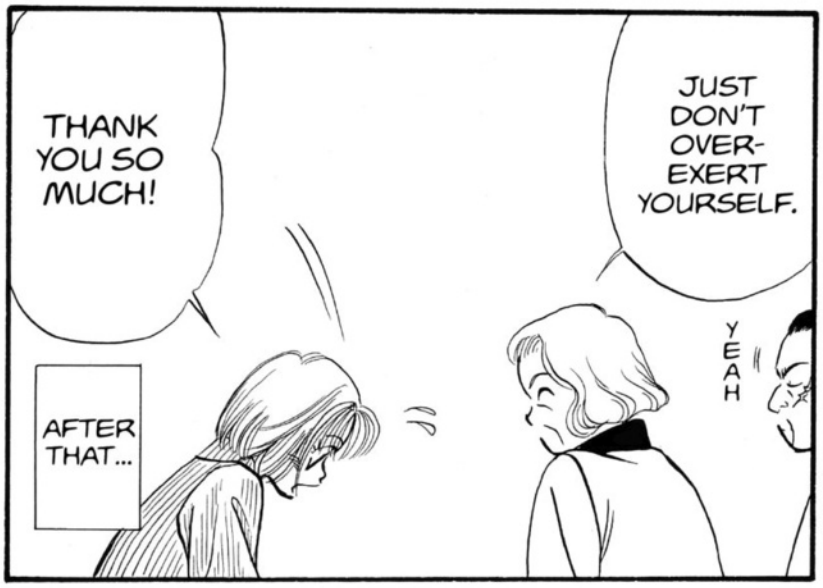
JUST PROMISE ME...

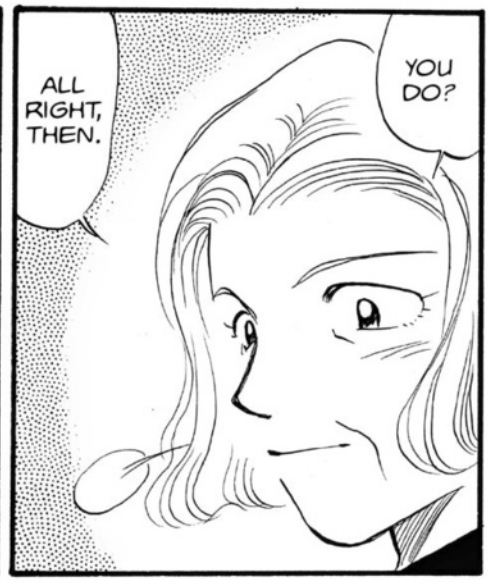

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DIDN'T I WORK WHEN I WAS PREGNANT?
BUT CAN PREGNANT WOMEN WORK, HONEY?
...EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T THE BEST DECISION.
Sniff

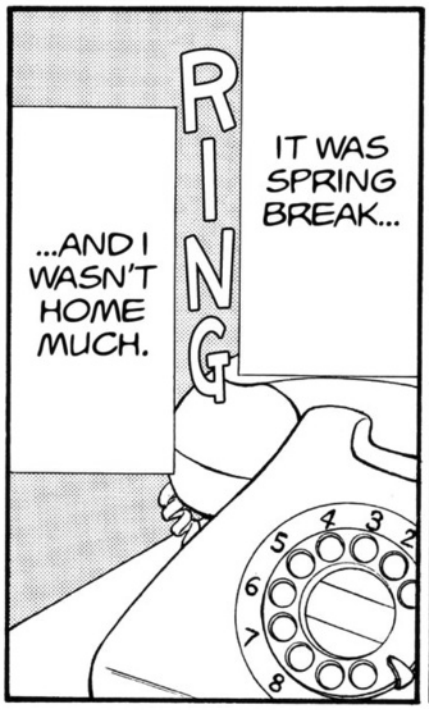
I WILL.
YUKAKO LATER TOLD ME...
...THAT SHE HAD THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT BEFORE SHE LEFT...

I DON'T THINK SO.
AND THEN THERE'S MORNING SICKNESS. IS IT BAD?
I CAN EAT AND I HAVE PLENTY OF STAMINA.

HMM ...
I'LL SPARE HER THE HARDEST WORK WHEN I CAN. AND I'LL DO THE DELIVERIES.


THANK YOU SO MUCH!
JUST DON'T OVER-EXERT YOURSELF.
YEAH
AFTER THAT...


ALL RIGHT, THEN.
YOU DO?

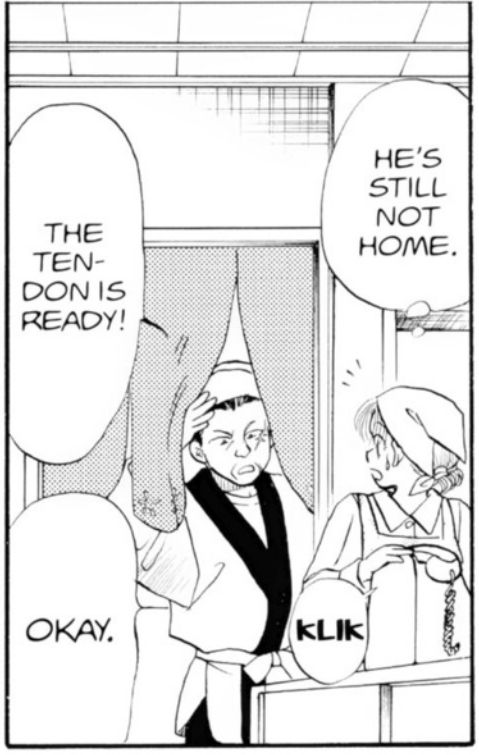

RING
IT WAS SPRING BREAK...
...AND I WASN'T HOME MUCH.

RING
RING
...I WAS NEVER HOME.
...YUKAKO TRIED TO CALL ME SEVERAL TIMES, BUT...

WHEW
THIS IS GREAT.

I WAS OUT LOOKING FOR YUKAKO.
HMM
...LET'S TRY THE SUGAMO AREA TODAY.
HMM
STEP
KING
WELL, I WENT TO IKEBUKURO YESTER-DAY, SO...
BUT I WASN'T GOOFING OFF.

IS HE TRAVELING OR SOMETHING?


THE TENDON IS READY!
HE'S STILL NOT HOME.
OKAY.
KLIK

RING
RING

I HAVE NEW RESPECT FOR POLICE INSPECTORS TOO.
I CAN'T SLEEP.
HARUMI, YOU LOOK TIRED.
Harumi asked him to help.
NYANKO

SWUMP

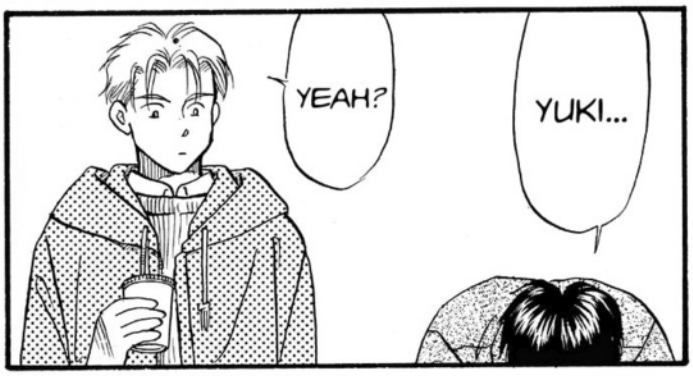
Mister
SLURP
...

YOU WANT THE WHOLE **WORLD** TO KNOW HER FACE? SHE'S NOT A CRIMINAL!
WHAT ABOUT PUTTING UP POSTERS?

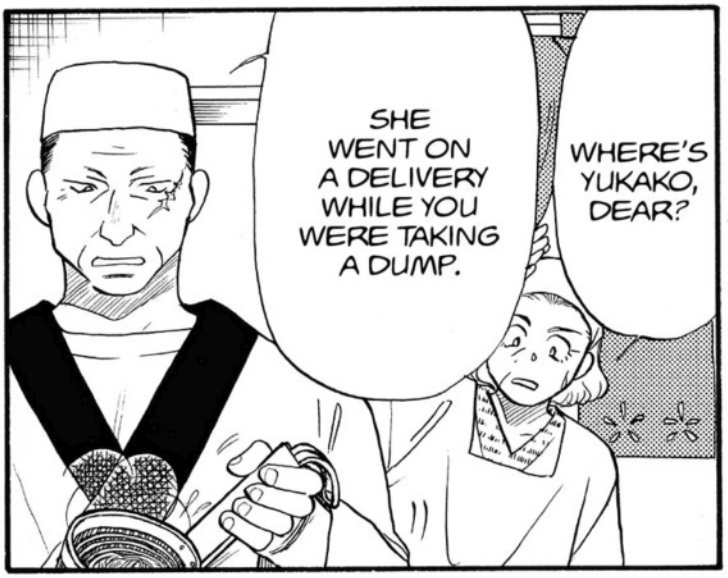
NO WAY. IF THE POLICE WENT OUT TO LOOK FOR EVERY RUNAWAY GIRLFRIEND, THERE'D BE NOBODY LEFT TO KEEP THE PEACE.
DO YOU THINK I SHOULD FILE A MISSING PERSON'S REPORT?

I'M HUNGRY.
GURGLE
HUH?
...

SIGH...


YEAH?
YUKI...

THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
DON'T BE VULGAR!
TIWAK
OOF


SHE WENT ON A DELIVERY WHILE YOU WERE TAKING A DUMP.
WHERE'S YUKAKO, DEAR?

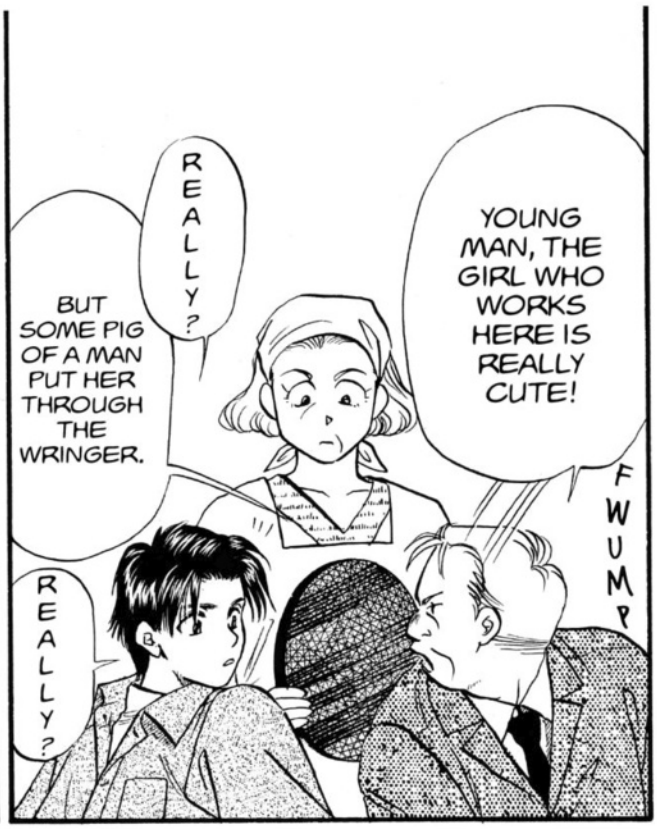
TOYO! YOU'VE GOT CUSTOM-ERS!
POW
BAM
WHAM

SOOSH

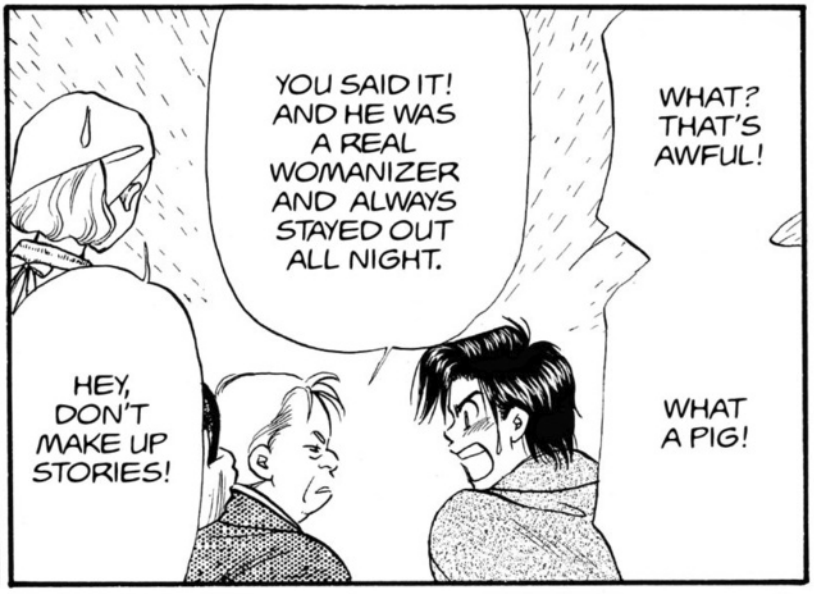
WHAT CAN I GET YOU?
HELLO.
FINE.
THIS IS ON YOU, HARUMI.
SURE. TEMPURA AND SASHIMI! RIGHT AWAY!
UM...I'LL HAVE THE TEMPURA SET.
THE SASHIMI SET, PLEASE.
300yt
THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
PINUP GIRL?
SHE'S OUT ON A DELIVERY. SHE SHOULD BE BACK SOON, THOUGH.
HEY, WHERE'S YOUR PINUP GIRL TODAY?
THAT'S MARIMO RAGAWA'S. WHAT KIND OF JOINT IS THIS?
LOOK AT ALL THE CELEBRITY AUTO-GRAPHS.
JACK
JACK

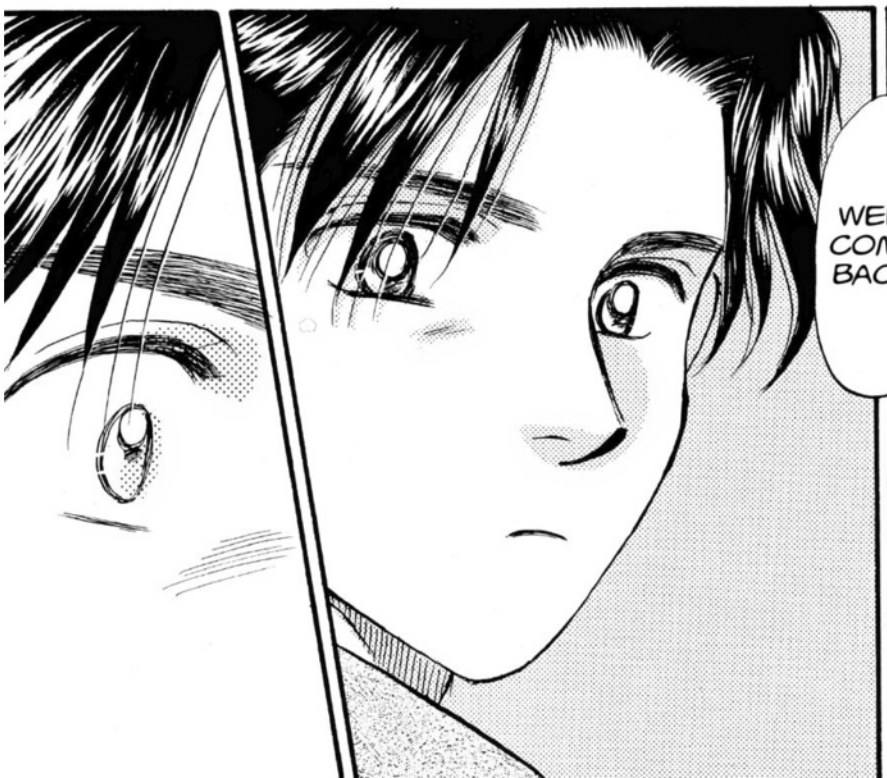
WHAT KIND OF A BRUTE KICKS OUT A PREGNANT WOMAN LIKE THAT?
SHE IS?

SHE'S WORN OUT, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY, BECAUSE OF HER NASTY EX.


YOUNG MAN, THE GIRL WHO WORKS HERE IS REALLY CUTE!
REALLY?
BUT SOME PIG OF A MAN PUT HER THROUGH THE WRINGER.
REALLY?
FWUMP

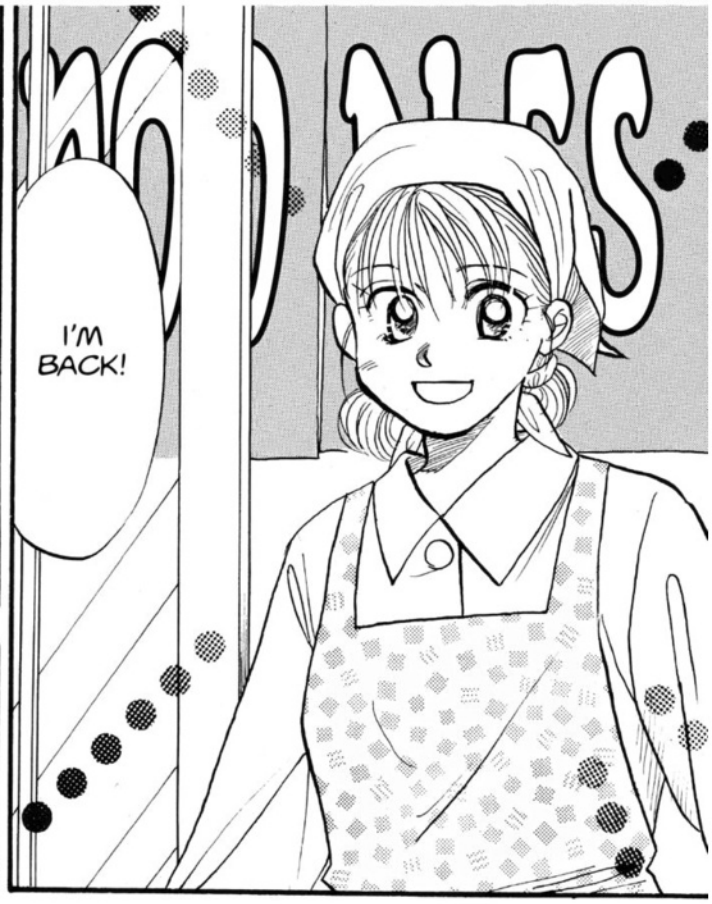
WHY'RE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP?
THAT DIRTY DOG! AND THAT POOR GIRL!
GRR
GRR

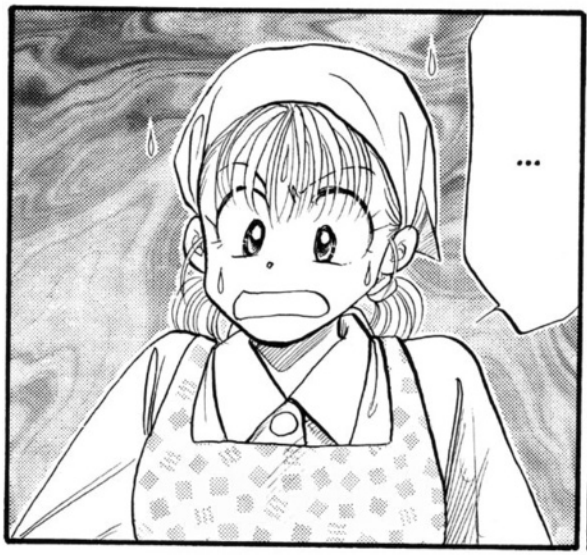

YOU SAID IT! AND HE WAS A REAL WOMANIZER AND ALWAYS STAYED OUT ALL NIGHT.
WHAT? THAT'S AWFUL!
HEY, DON'T MAKE UP STORIES!
WHAT A PIG!


WEL-COME BACK.

OH!
WOOSH

MARIMO ZAGAWA
WHAK


I'M BACK!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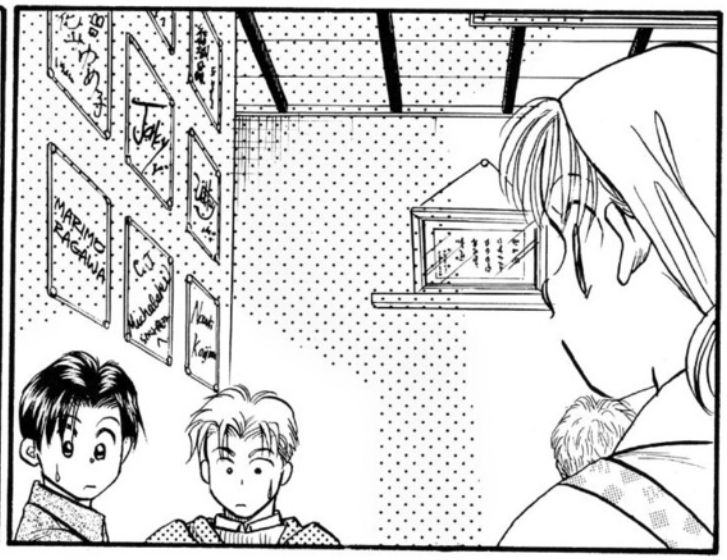
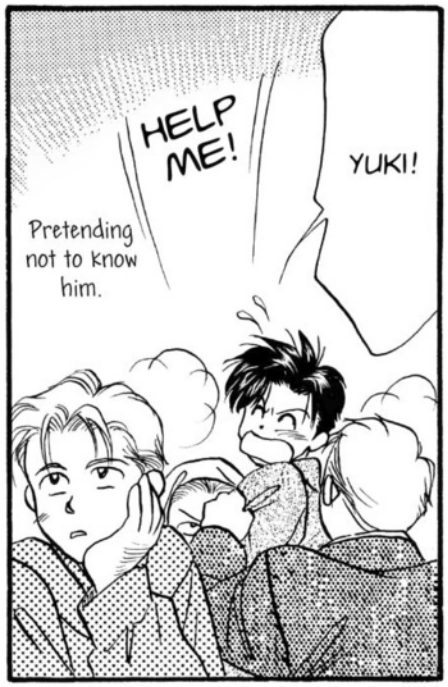

MARIMO ZAGAWA

SHOOM
?!
NO!!

HI, YUKAKO.
POP
N...

YOUNG MAN, ARE YOU THE TERRIBLE EX?
WHAT?
HOLD ON!

YUKAKO !!


HELP ME!
YUKI!
Pretending not to know him.

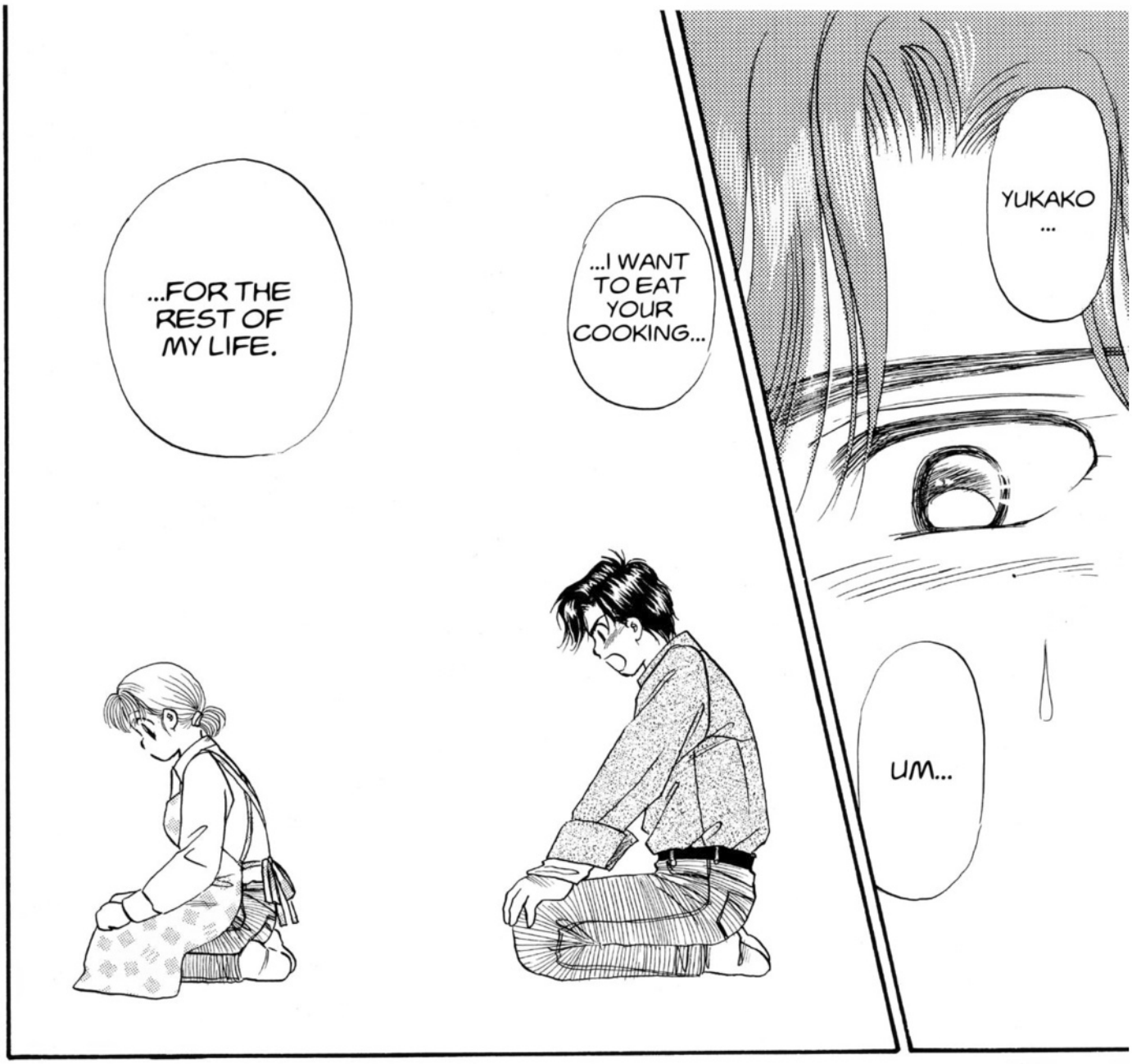
YOU'RE THE DIRTY DOG?
TERRI-BLE EX?

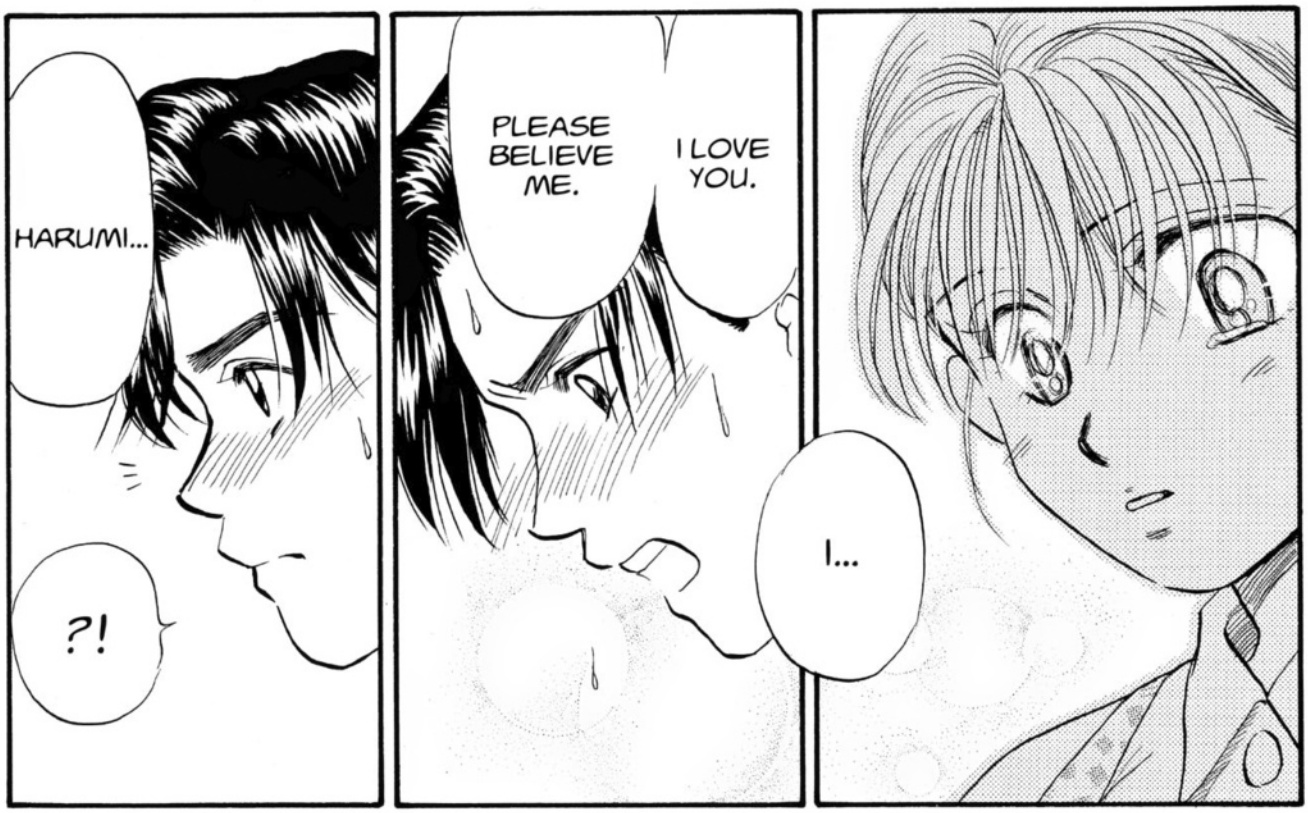
OOF
DON'T SCARE HIM AWAY!
...
THWACK

WAAH!
TOMP TOMP TOMP
SO YOU'RE THE NO-GOOD SON OF A—

I JUST WANT ...
Y-YEAH?
VEEN
HEY, YOU!
SNIFF
...I SWALLOWED THE KANJI FOR "HUMAN" THREE TIMES.*
*To steel oneself before doing something scary.
IF YOU HURT HER AGAIN, I'LL MAKE YOU PAY.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL HER IF YOU SEE HER?
I'D NEVER BEEN SO NERVOUS BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
...TO WORK THINGS OUT WITH HER.
SHEESH. THIS IS MORE NERVE-WRACKING THAN THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM.
AT THAT MOMENT ...

...
TMP
YUKAKO ...
TWITCH
JUST LISTEN.
YOU WERE WORRIED...
FUMP
...BECAUSE I WAS AN INSENSITIVE JERK.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BRING UP OUR BABY BY YOURSELF.
PLEASE... GIVE ME A CHANCE.


YUKAKO ...
UM...
...I WANT TO EAT YOUR COOKING...
...FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

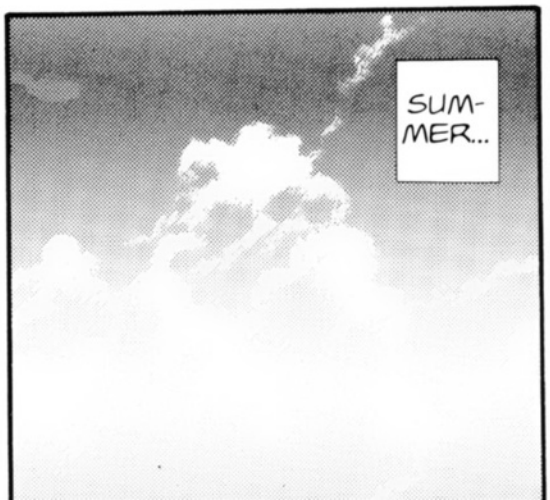

I...
I LOVE YOU.
PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
HARUMI...
?!

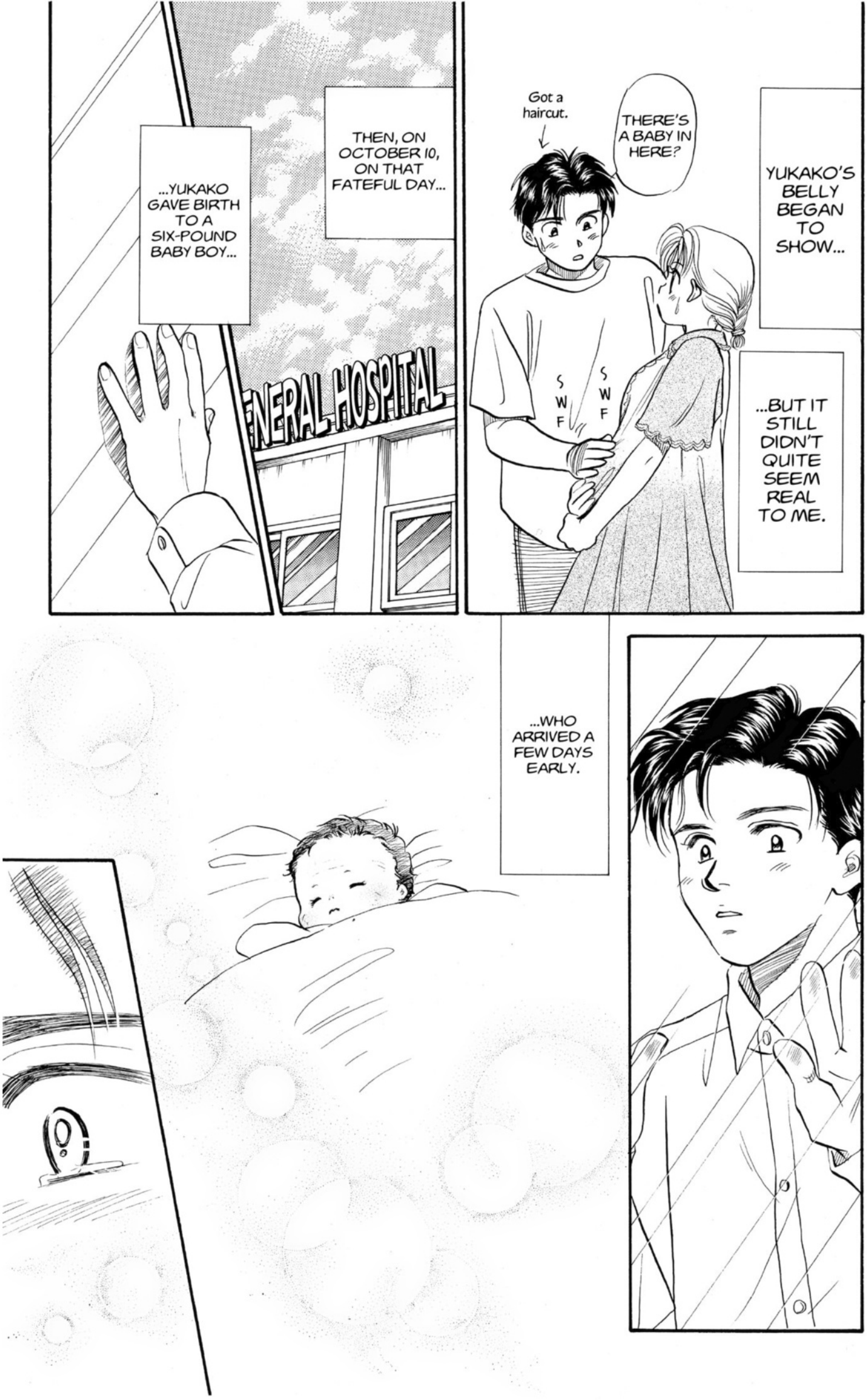
IF YOU REALLY...
WELL...
...LIKE MY COOKING SO MUCH...
DAD...
MOM...
SIGH... KNUCKLE-HEADS...
HOW BEAUTI-FUL.
HONK
LOOKS LIKE IT'S SETTLED.

...THIS IS THE WOMAN I'M GOING TO MARRY.
AFTER THAT...

I WANTED TO EARN MONEY BEFORE THE BABY WAS BORN...
...SO I TOOK A PART-TIME JOB.

...YUKAKO AND I GOT MARRIED. IT WAS A PRIVATE CEREMONY.

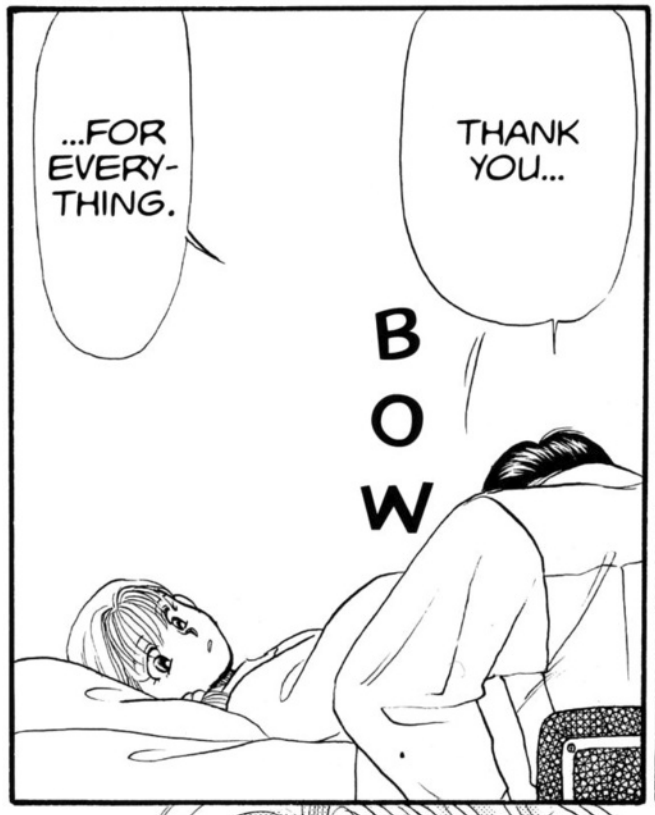

SUM-MER...


...YUKAKO GAVE BIRTH TO A SIX-POUND BABY BOY...
THEN, ON OCTOBER 10, ON THAT FATEFUL DAY...
ENERAL HOSPITAL
Got a haircut.
THERE'S A BABY IN HERE?
YUKAKO'S BELLY BEGAN TO SHOW...
...BUT IT STILL DIDN'T QUITE SEEM REAL TO ME.
...WHO ARRIVED A FEW DAYS EARLY.

YUP.
WELL ...
...HE'S THE CUTEST BABY THERE.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR BABY?
YEAH. I JUST SAW HIM.
KLAK

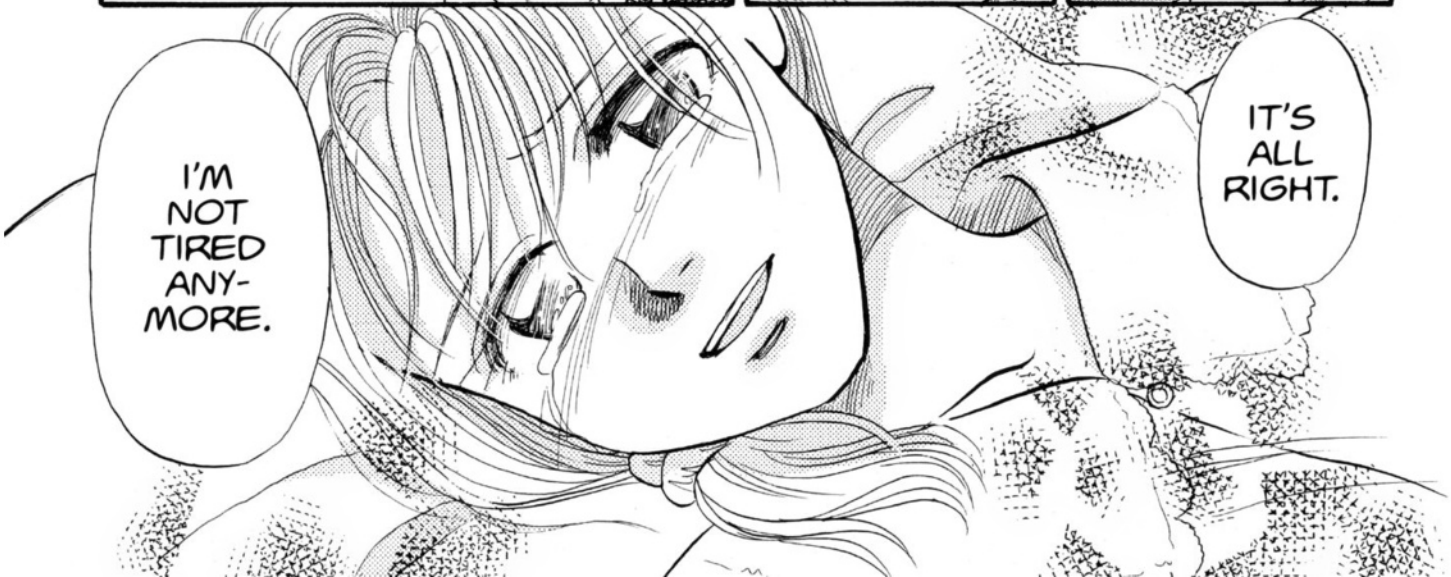
SWUFF


THANK YOU...
...FOR EVERY-THING.
BOW

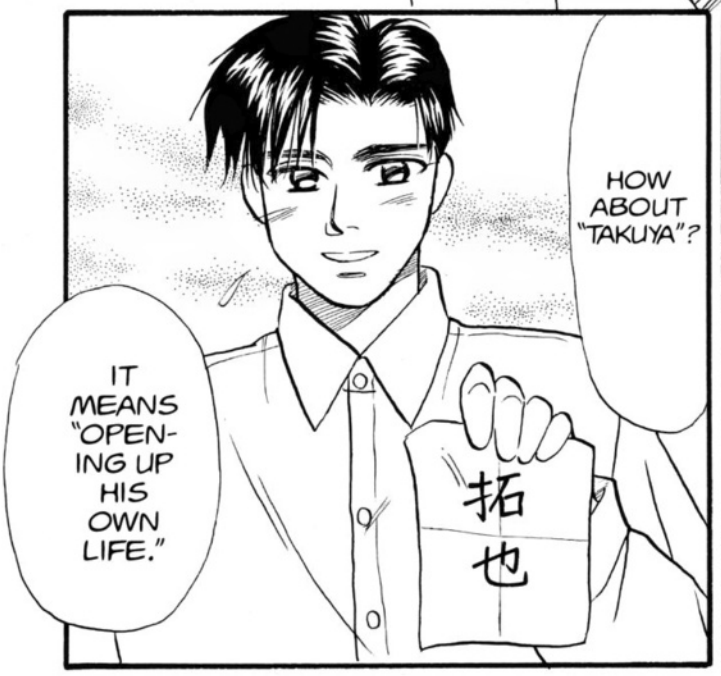
HE'S GOT MY MOUTH.
HA HA HA...

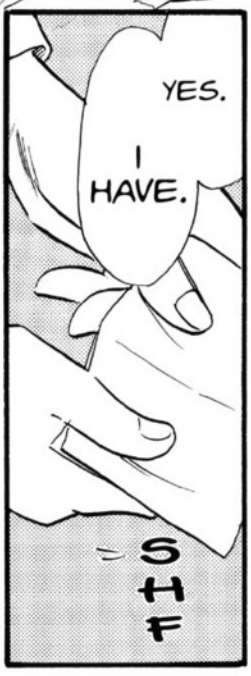
YUKAKO ?

UM...
AND ...
YUKAK


IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M NOT TIRED ANY-MORE.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
OCTOBER 9TH IN
MRS. YUKAKO ENOKI
DOCTOR: DR. NAKAMATSU
I'M SO HAPPY.
YOU'RE NOT?
HARUMI ...
YES?

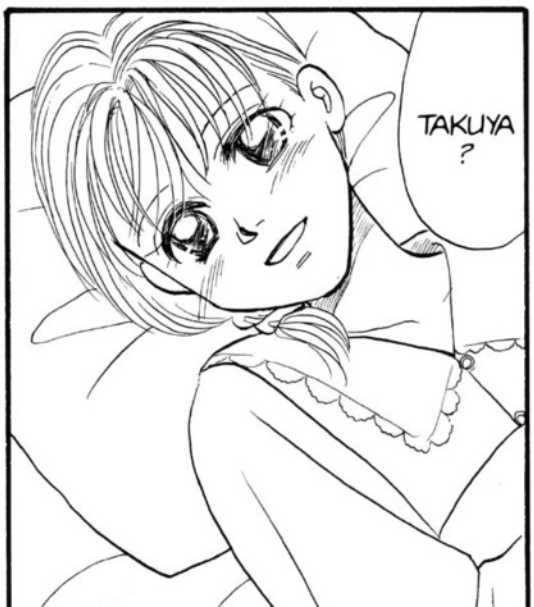

HOW ABOUT "TAKUYA"?
拓也
IT MEANS "OPENING UP HIS OWN LIFE."


YES. I HAVE.
SHF

YOU KNOW ...
...I WAS THINKING ABOUT A NAME.
SWFF
HAVE YOU PICKED ONE?

SWF
SWF

YEAH.


TAKUYA ?

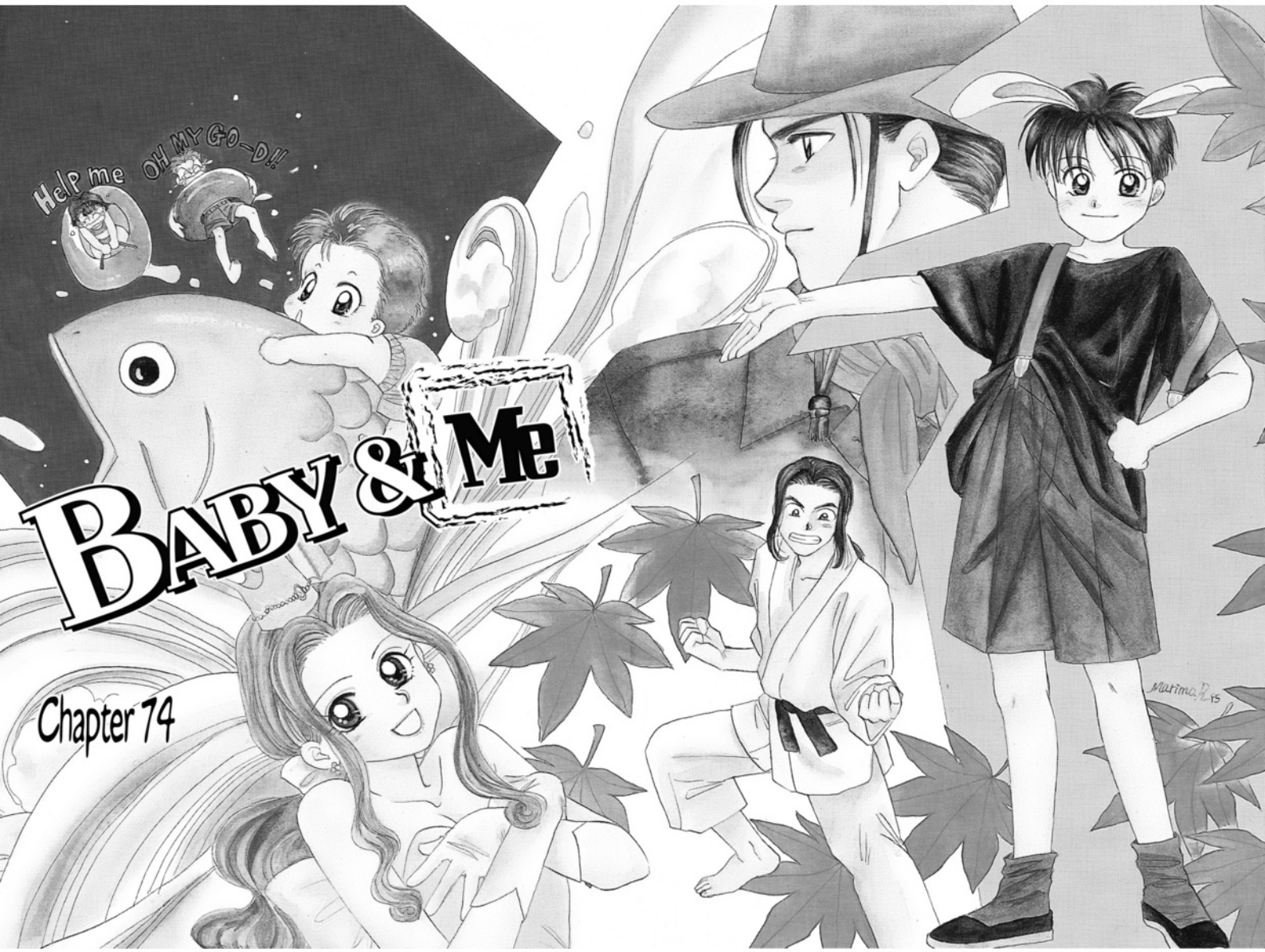
THAT'S A GREAT NAME.
THAT WAS...
...12 YEARS AGO.
KSHHH
KUM ANOI STA TION

ON RAINY DAYS LIKE THIS ...
...YUKAKO USED TO MEET ME HERE WITH AN UMBRELLA.

KSHHH
...

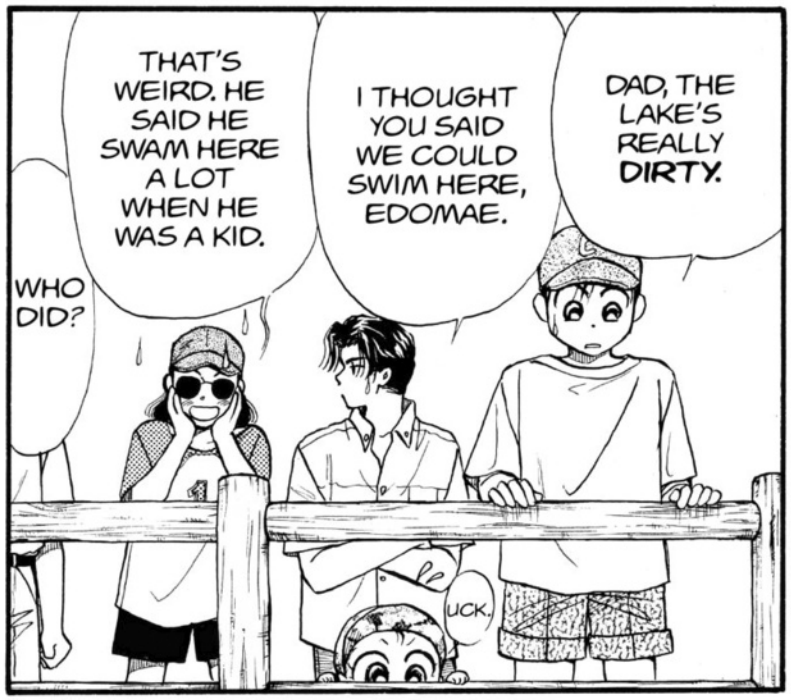
PLUP
PLUP
KSHHH
DAD!
DADDY!
Good kids wear their rain boots.

Chapter 73 / The End


Help me
OH MY GO-D!!
BABY & Me
Chapter 74

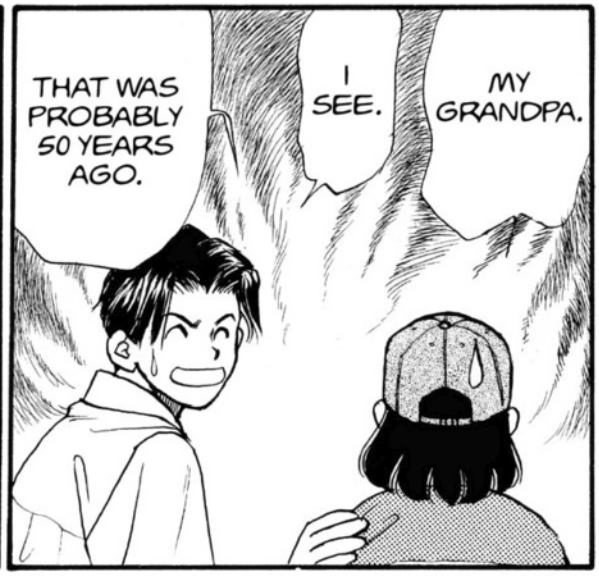
HA

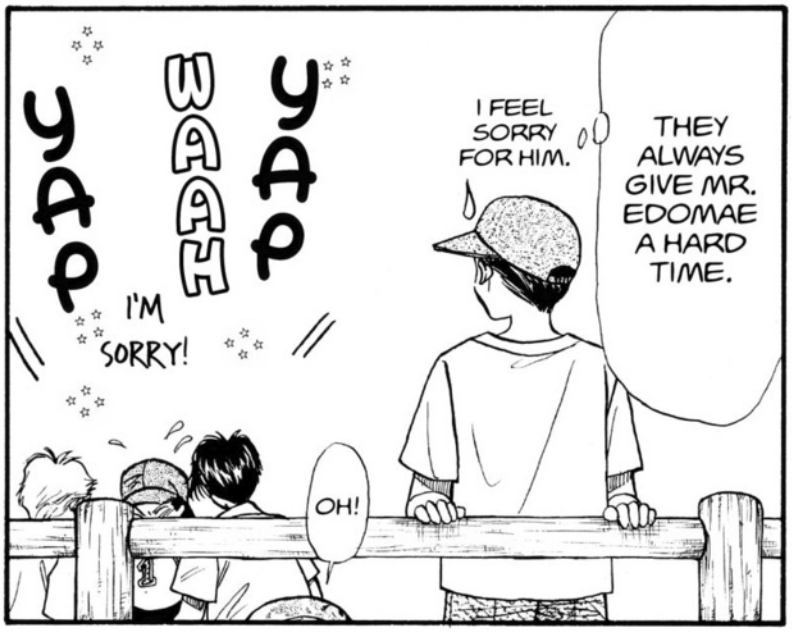
SUNDAY IN AUGUST. THE TEMPERATURE IS 93 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.
SHING
WHAT A GREAT DAY!
SEVEN PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO ENJOY A DAY OF FISHING IN THE SUMMER HEAT.
IT'S A PERFECT DAY...
SSS
...FOR FISHING!
YEAH, JUST PERFECT.
SSS
鉄人
1


DAD, THE LAKE'S REALLY DIRTY.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE COULD SWIM HERE, EDOMAE.
THAT'S WEIRD. HE SAID HE SWAM HERE A LOT WHEN HE WAS A KID.
WHO DID?
UCK.

HMM ...
MURK

WE BROUGHT OUR SWIM-SUITS FOR NOTHING!
YEAH.
WE CAN RENT FISHING POLES AT THAT STORE OVER THERE.
FISHING IN THE SUMMER IS AWE-SOME!
HA HA HA


MY GRANDPA.
I SEE.
THAT WAS PROBABLY 50 YEARS AGO.


THEY ALWAYS GIVE MR. EDOMAE A HARD TIME.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
OH!
YAP
WAAH
YAP
I'M SORRY!

...

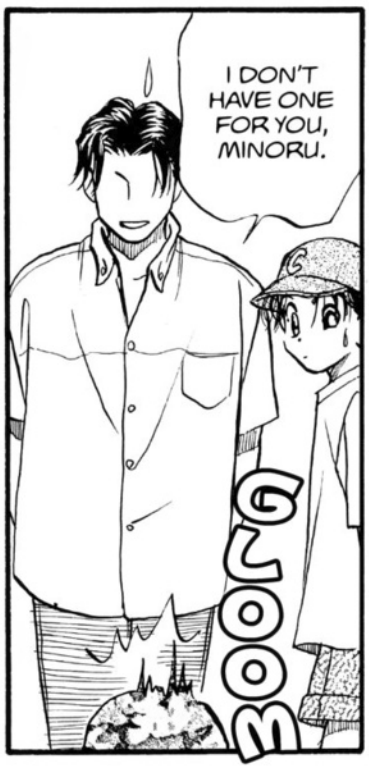
BUT THEY BREED THEM HERE IN JAPAN.
THEY'RE AMERI-CAN FISH.
WHAT'S LARGE-MOUTH BASS?
YOU CAN SPIN-FISH FOR DEEP-BODIED CRUCIAN CARP AND LARGE-MOUTH BASS.
UBB ...
AND WHAT'S SPIN FISHING?

WHAT KIND OF FISH DO THEY HAVE AROUND HERE?
DAD
THANK YOU FOR COMING!

TELE-CON IS A MAIL ORDER TV SHOW THAT AIRS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
FOR SOME REASON, THAT SHOW MAKES YOU WANT TO BUY STUFF.
THROB THROB
I BOUGHT A SET OF LURES FROM TELE-CON.

SPIN FISHING IS...
...WHEN YOU USE ARTIFICIAL LURES THAT IMITATE THE MOVEMENTS OF LIVE BAIT. CARNIVO-ROUS FISH LIKE LARGEMOUTH BASS ARE DRAWN TO THEM.

HERE'S YOUR FISHING POLE, TAKUYA.
OH, THANKS.
HUH?
DADDY?
TUG


I DON'T HAVE ONE FOR YOU, MINORU.
GLOOM

WHERE'S MINE?
THB
THB

HUH?

I THINK YOU STUNG HIS MALE PRIDE.
OKAY?
WE CAN SHARE, MINORU!
BLUB...
BRR
BRR

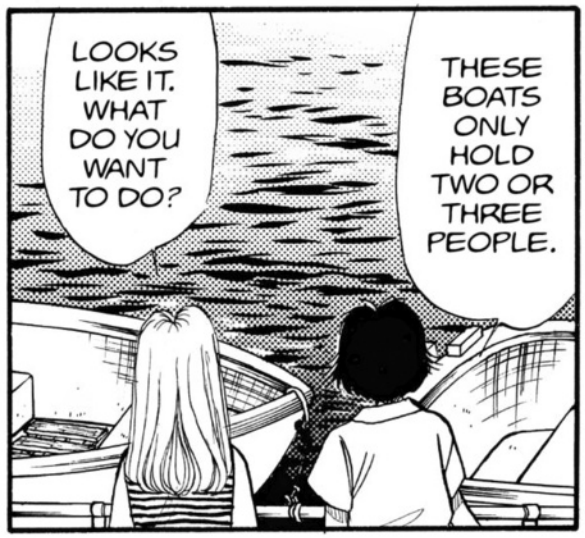
YOU CALL THAT A FISHING POLE?
HUH?
SO I MADE THIS FOR HIM.
STRING
STICK
RUBBER LURE WITH NO HOOK

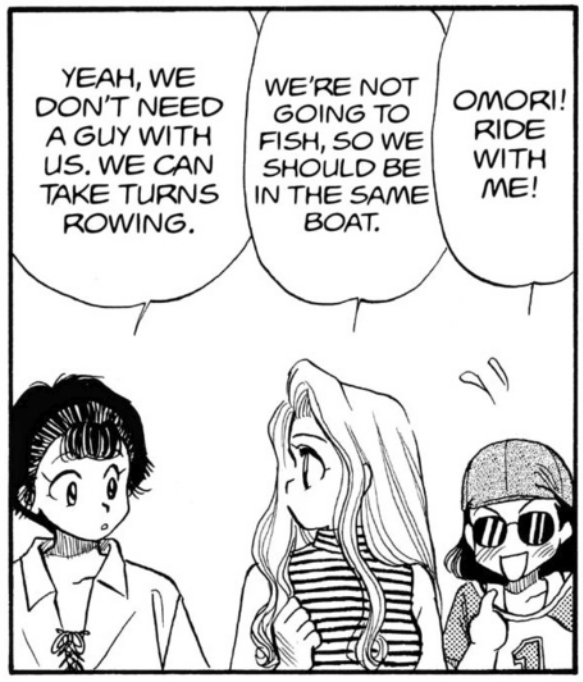
I SYMPATHIZE WITH THE LITTLE TYKE.
CHIEF!
WHUP
WHAT CAN I DO? THOSE HOOKS ARE DANGER-OUS.

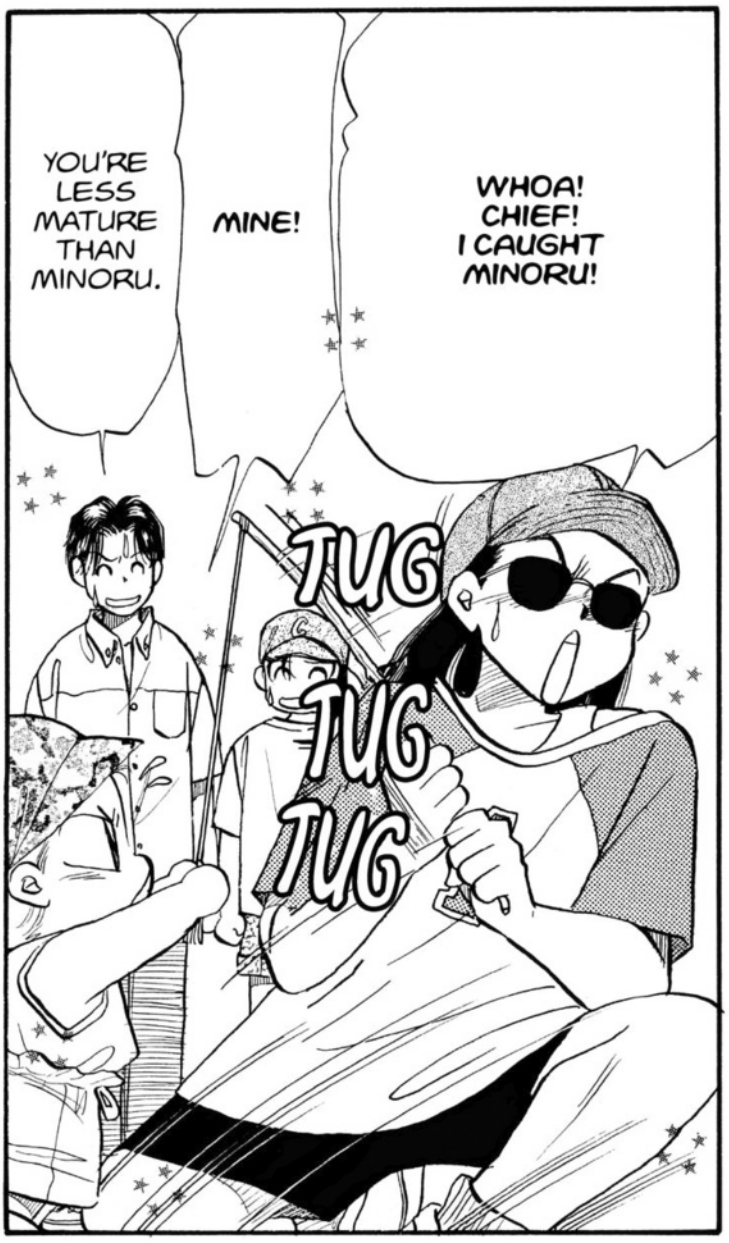
MINE!
WHAP

HUH?
HERE! HERE!

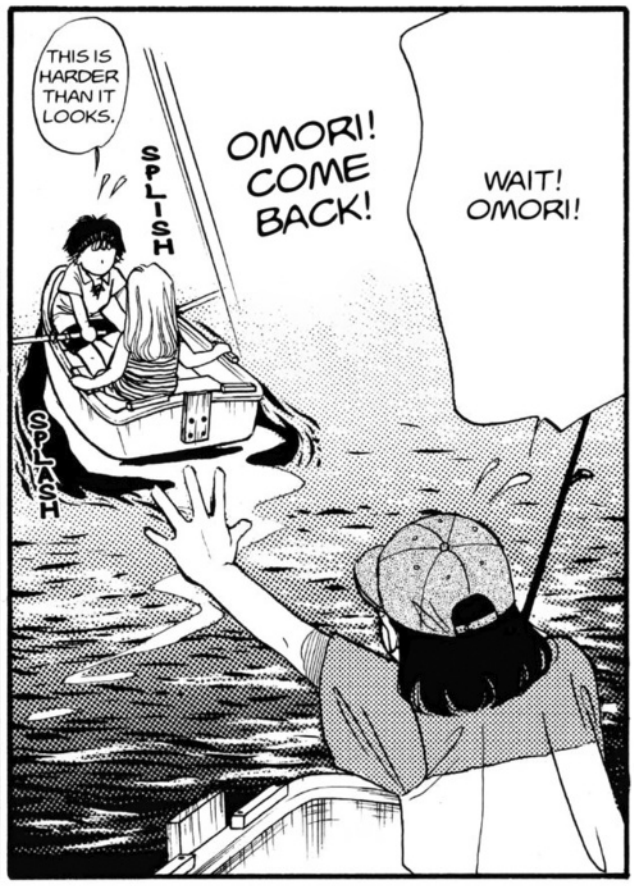
HEY, MINORU, LOOK.
I DON'T THINK MINORU WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THAT.


LOOKS LIKE IT. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
THESE BOATS ONLY HOLD TWO OR THREE PEOPLE.


YEAH, WE DON'T NEED A GUY WITH US. WE CAN TAKE TURNS ROWING.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO FISH, SO WE SHOULD BE IN THE SAME BOAT.
OMORI! RIDE WITH ME!

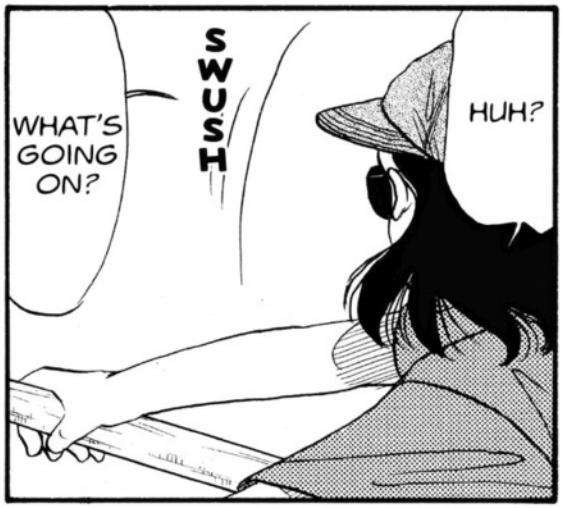

YOU'RE LESS MATURE THAN MINORU.
MINE!
WHOA! CHIEF! I CAUGHT MINORU!
TUG
TUG
TUG

IT'S NO FUN ROWING WITH ANOTHER GUY!
SWUSH
DON'T FOLLOW US, EDOMAE.
YOU'RE GONNA HIT US.
YOU HAVE A ONE-TRACK MIND, EDOMAE.
SWUSH


THIS IS HARDER THAN IT LOOKS.
SPLISH
OMORI! COME BACK!
WAIT! OMORI!
SPLASH

WHAT?
DAD, DO LARGE-MOUTH BASS TASTE GOOD?
WHOA!!
EDOMAE! WE'RE NOT GOING FORWARD. WE'RE SPINNING!
USE BOTH OARS!
FWIP
FWIP

HEY!
SWUSH
BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO ENJOY FISHING AS A GROUP, CHIEF!

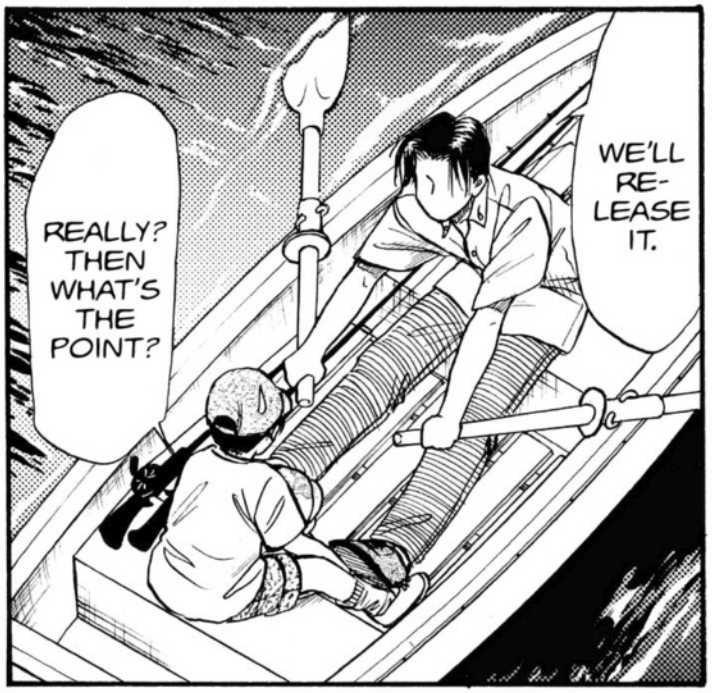

WHAT'S GOING ON?
SWUSH
HUH?

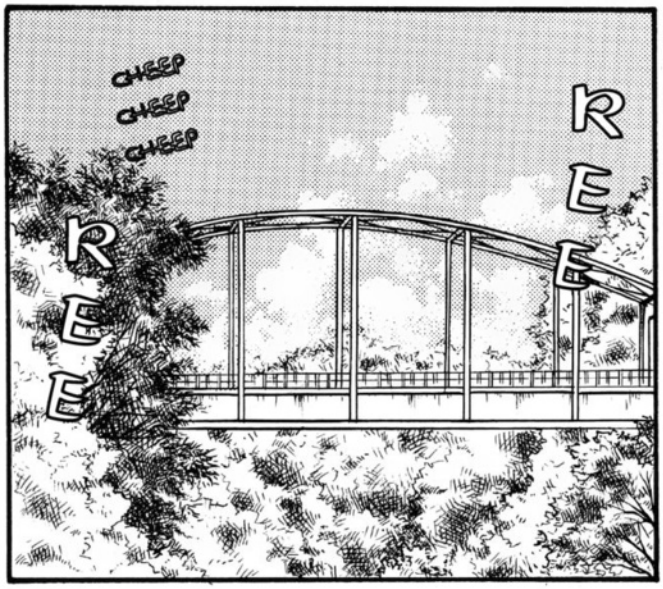
THEN WHAT IF WE CATCH A FISH?
NO WAY. THEY'RE REALLY BIG AND KIND OF UGLY.
SWUSH

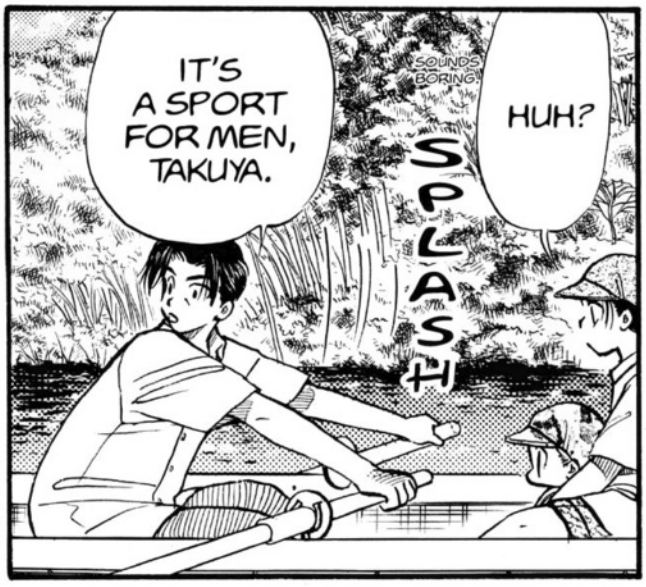
ARE WE GOING TO KEEP WHAT WE CATCH?
HUH?

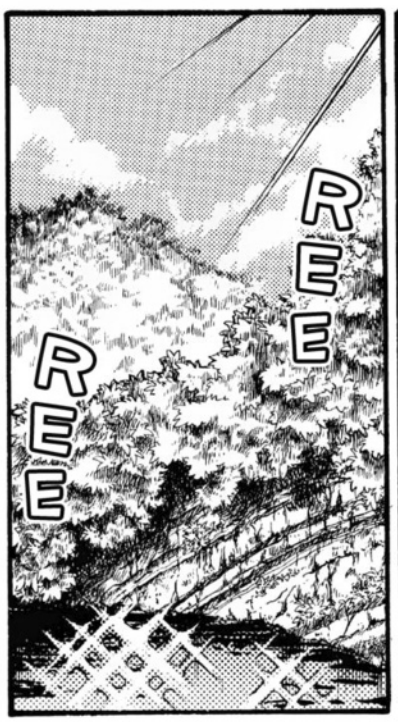
I DON'T KNOW. BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
SWUSH
SWUSH

It's a game fish.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES FISHING A SPORT.
LARGE-MOUTH BASS ARE HARD TO CATCH.
SWUSH
SWUSH

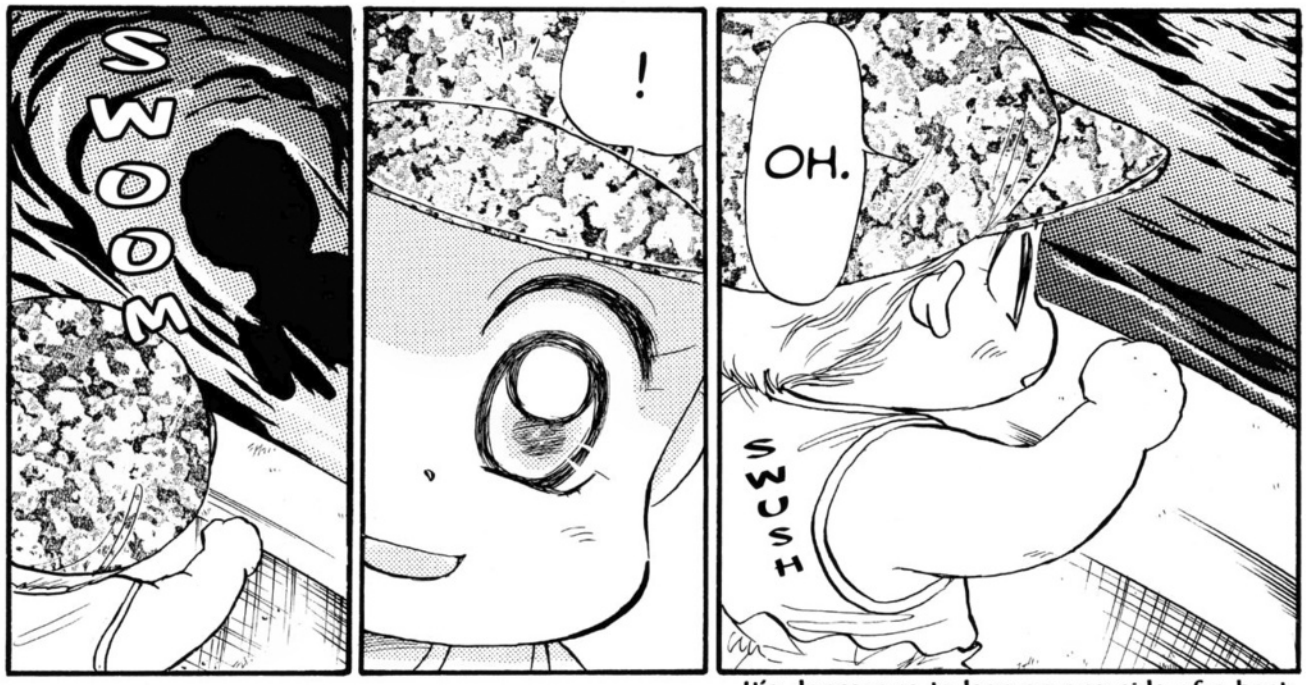

REALLY? THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?
WE'LL RE-LEASE IT.


CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
REEE
REEE

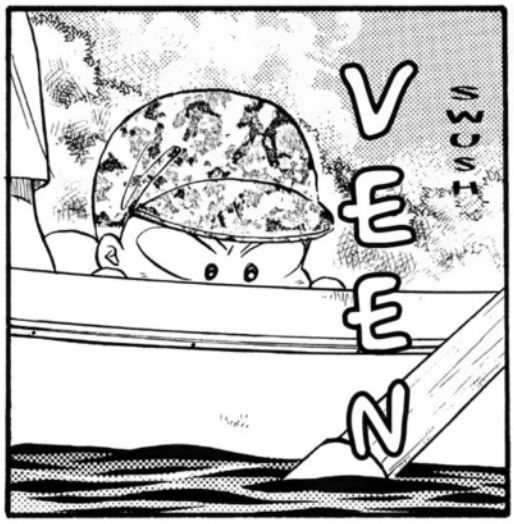

IT'S A SPORT FOR MEN, TAKUYA.
SOUNDS BORING.
HUH?
SPLASH

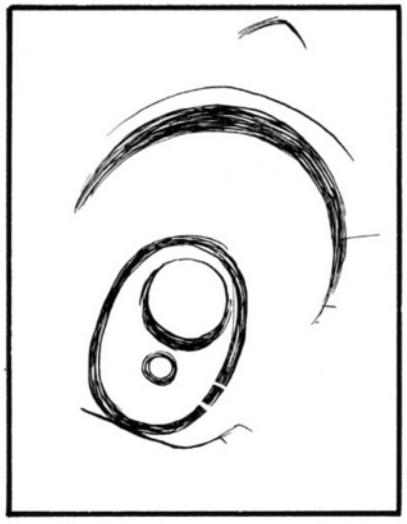


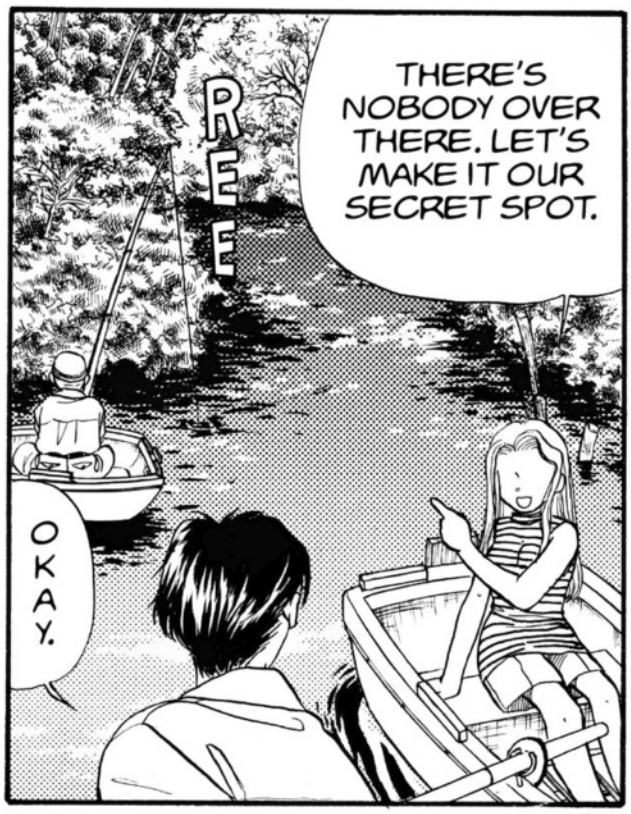
*A water monster from Japanese folklore.



It's dangerous to lean on one side of a boat.

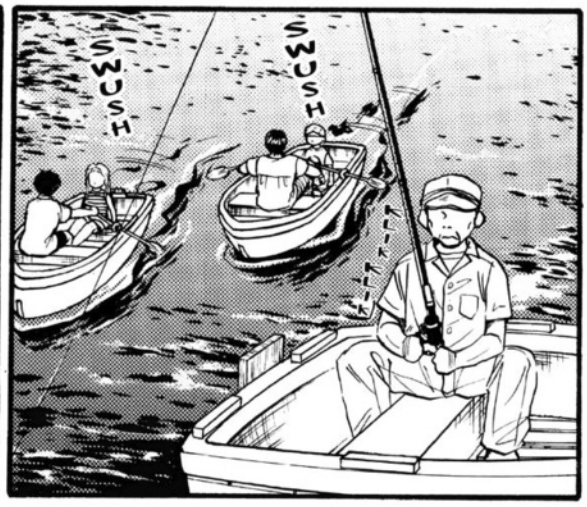





THERE'S NOBODY OVER THERE. LET'S MAKE IT OUR SECRET SPOT.
REE
OKAY.

CHIEF!
YAHOO!
HEY!

SWUSH
SWUSH
!


SWUSH
SWUSH

STOP!!

Author's Note Part 6

Whew. My last Author's Note.

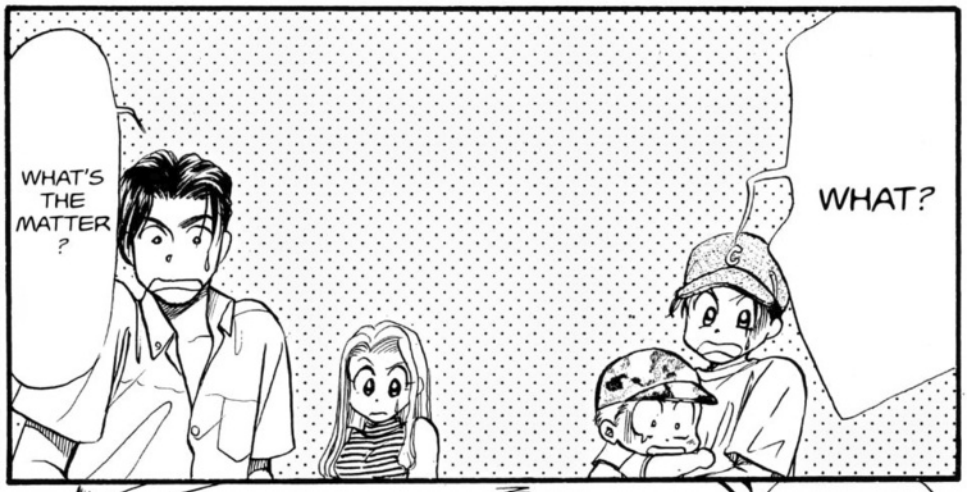
I got cable television, but I'm confused because there are more than 30 channels and there's no guide for all of them. So I usually end up channel surfing and watching whatever catches my eye. But I keep missing the shows I want to watch and forgetting which channels have interesting shows that I've watched before. It's so frustrating.

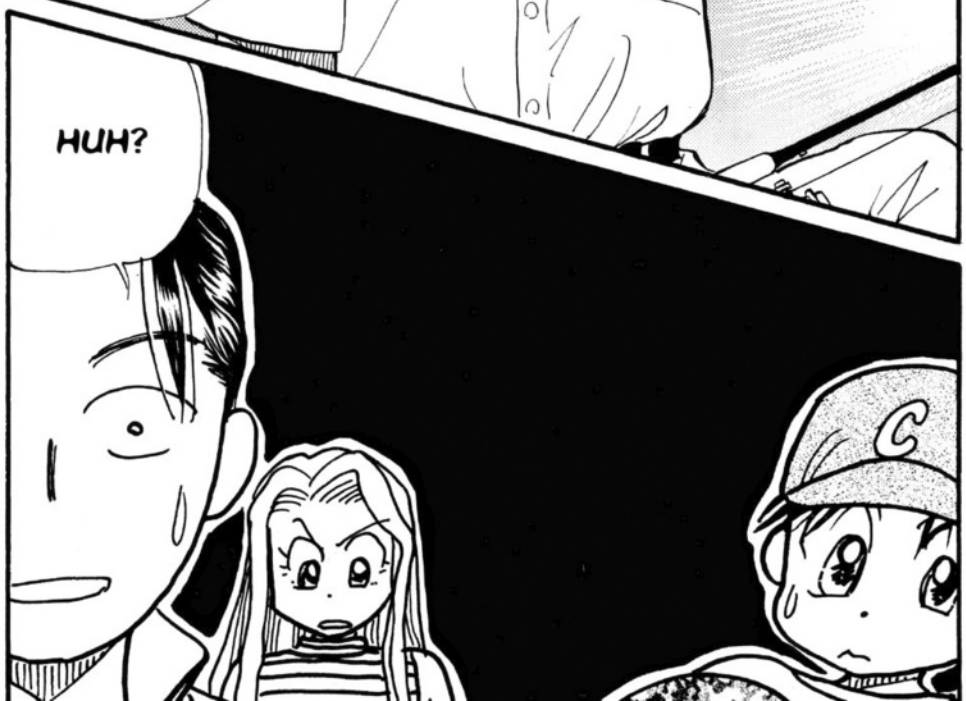
Still, I really like it. I get to enjoy movies, stand-up comedy, sports and music. But I spend so much time watching TV that I don't listen to my wire radio service. Since I pay for both, I want my money's worth from both!

What should I do? I'm going crazy! "

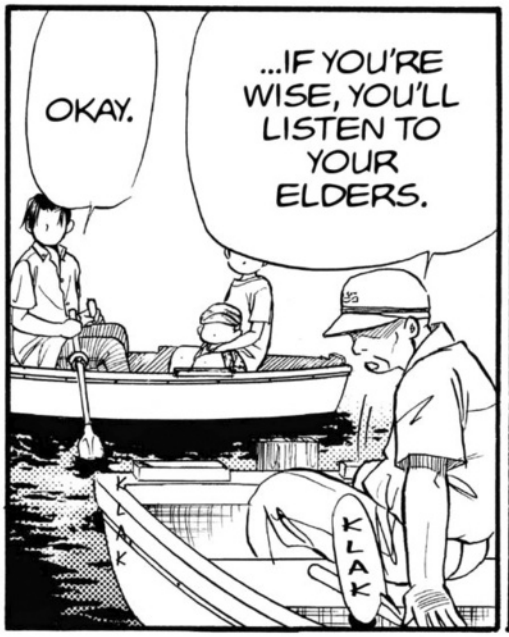
All right, see you again in volume 14! Bye!

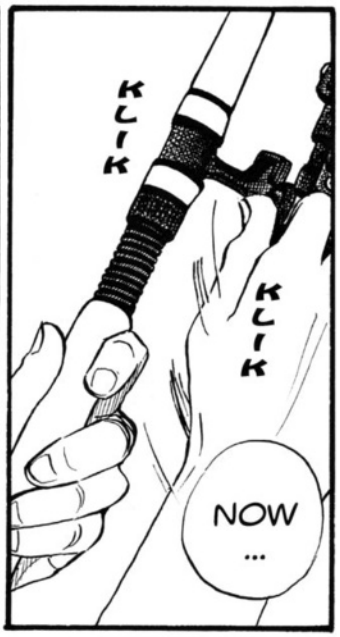
Marimo

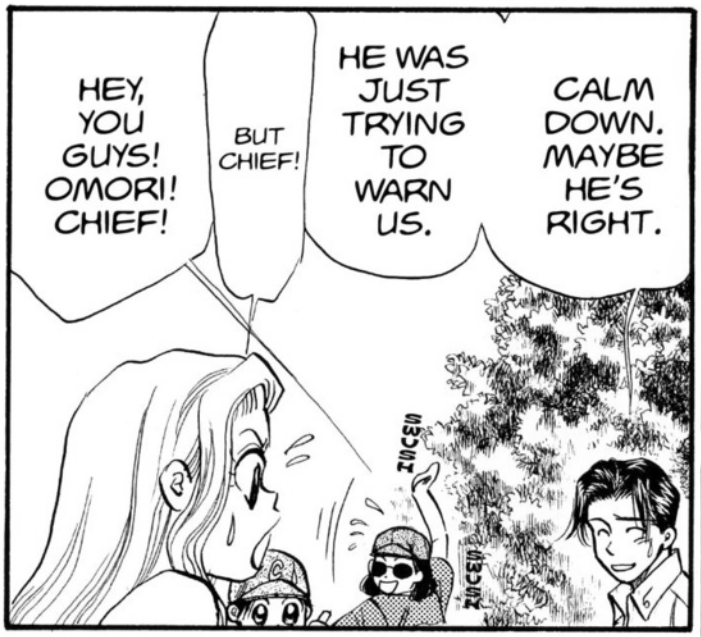


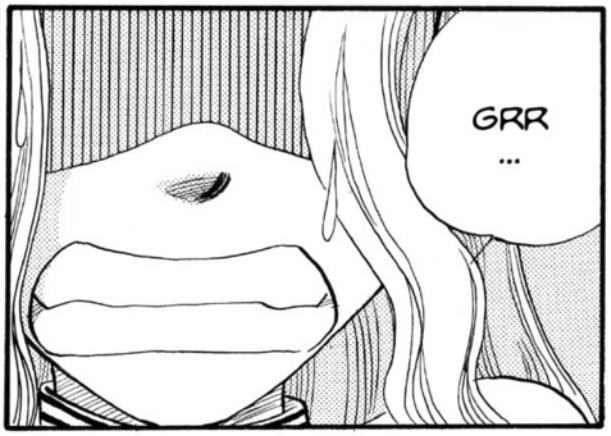


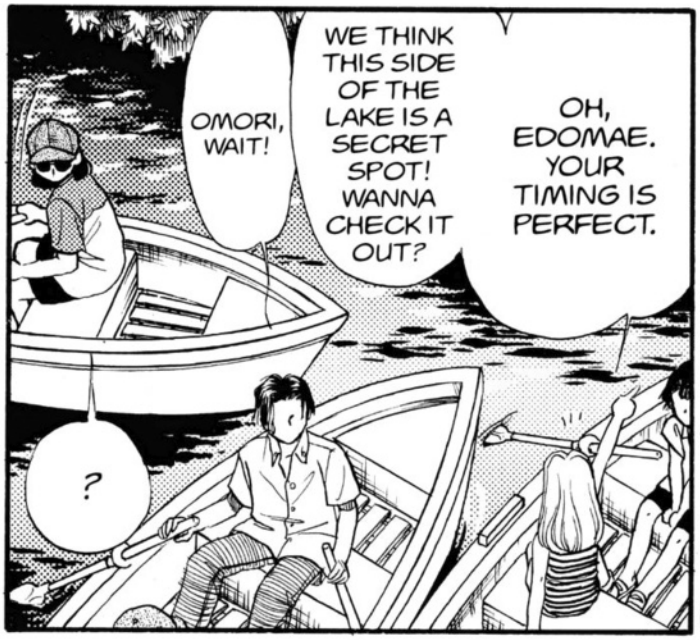
SWUSH
SWUSH
...


OKAY.
...IF YOU'RE WISE, YOU'LL LISTEN TO YOUR ELDERS.
KLAK
KLAK


KLIK
KLIK
NOW ...


HEY, YOU GUYS! OMORI! CHIEF!
BUT CHIEF!
HE WAS JUST TRYING TO WARN US.
CALM DOWN. MAYBE HE'S RIGHT.
ZAGAT
ZAGAT

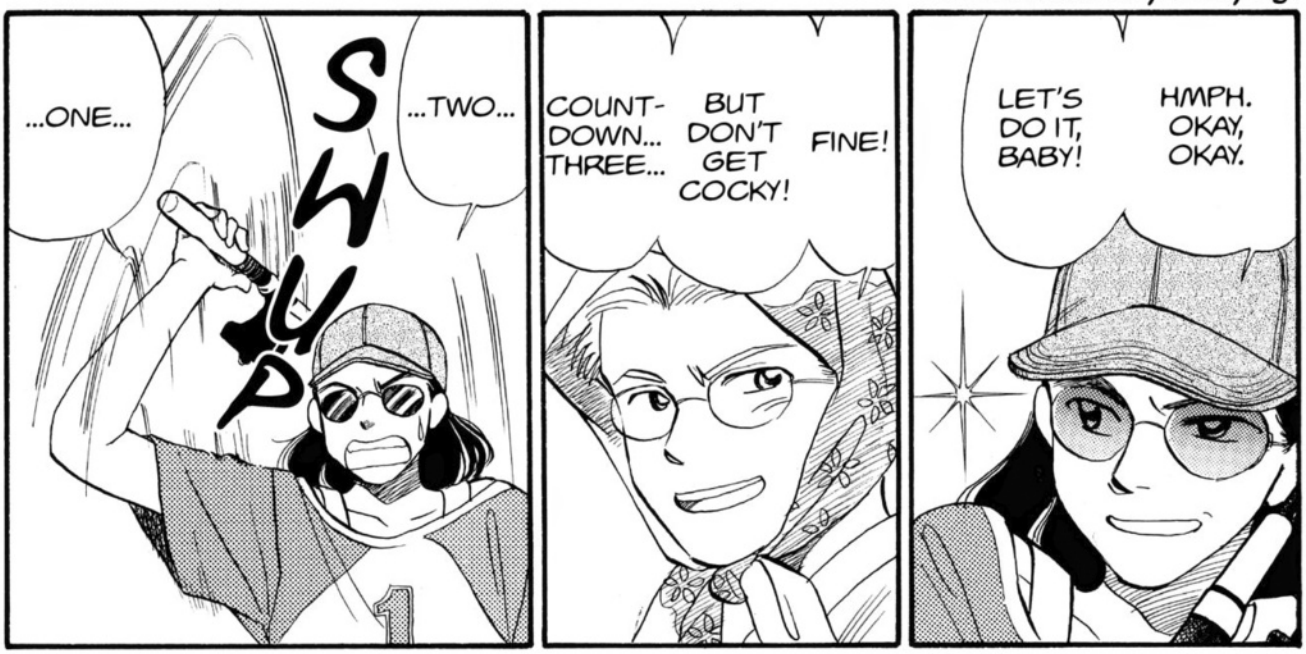

GRR ...

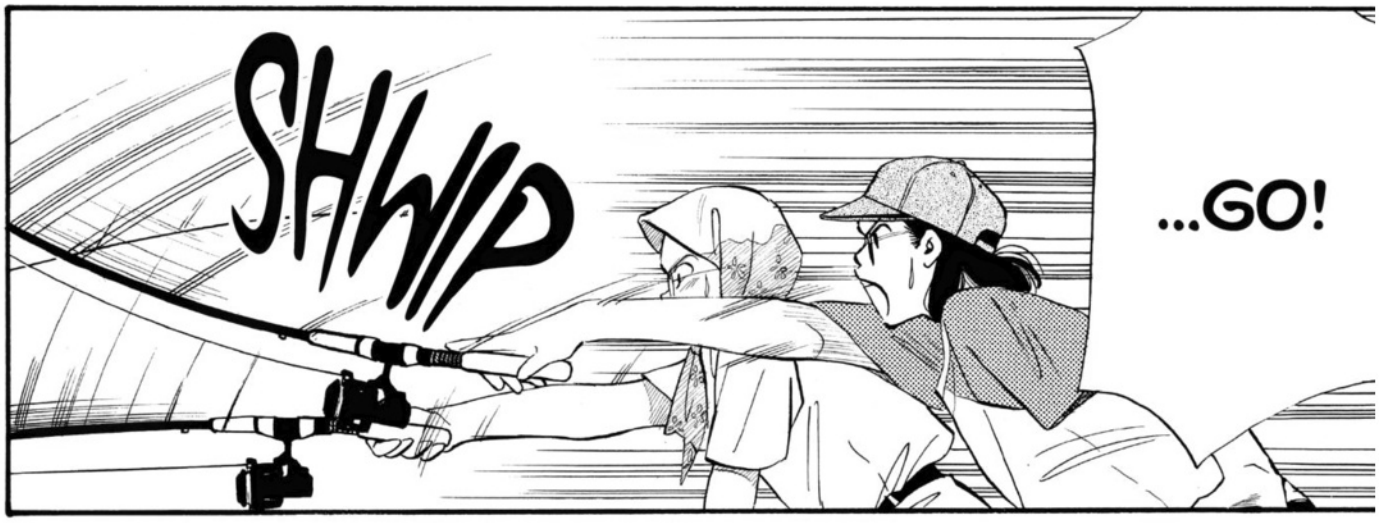

OMORI, WAIT!
WE THINK THIS SIDE OF THE LAKE IS A SECRET SPOT! WANNA CHECK IT OUT?
OH, EDOMAE. YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT.
?

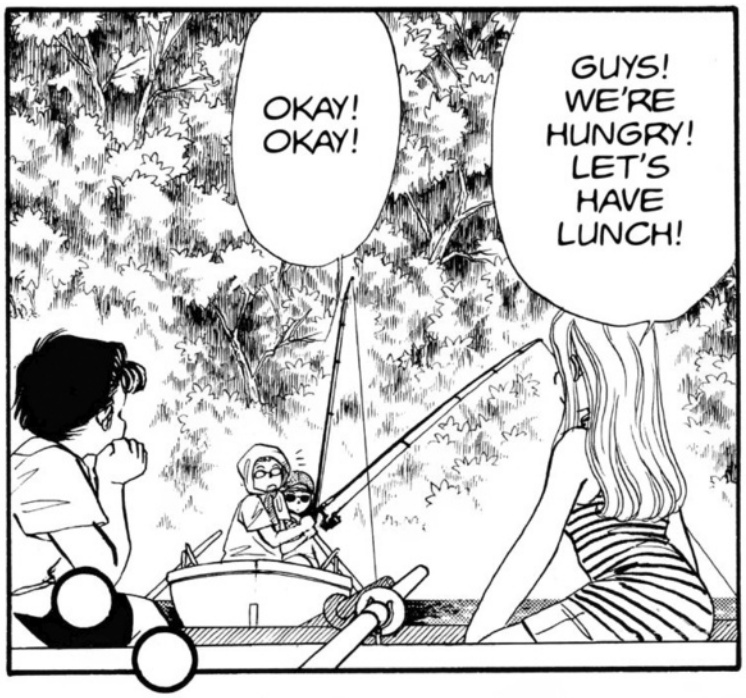
WHAT'S WITH THAT CRAZY OLD COOT?
THAT JERK !!

REE
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
REE
REE
DAD, WE'VE BEEN FISHING FOR TWO HOURS AND WE HAVEN'T CAUGHT ANYTHING.
KLIK
KLIK
SSS
SSS
FISHING REQUIRES PATIENCE.
Geez, it's hot.
TAKUYA.
LOOK HOW FOCUSED MINORU IS.
...
Aren't you ashamed?
STARE
HEY, YAMA-GUCHI ...
YEAH?
LET'S SEE WHO CAN CAST THE FARTHEST!
YOU'RE ON. THE LOSER BUYS THE JUICE.

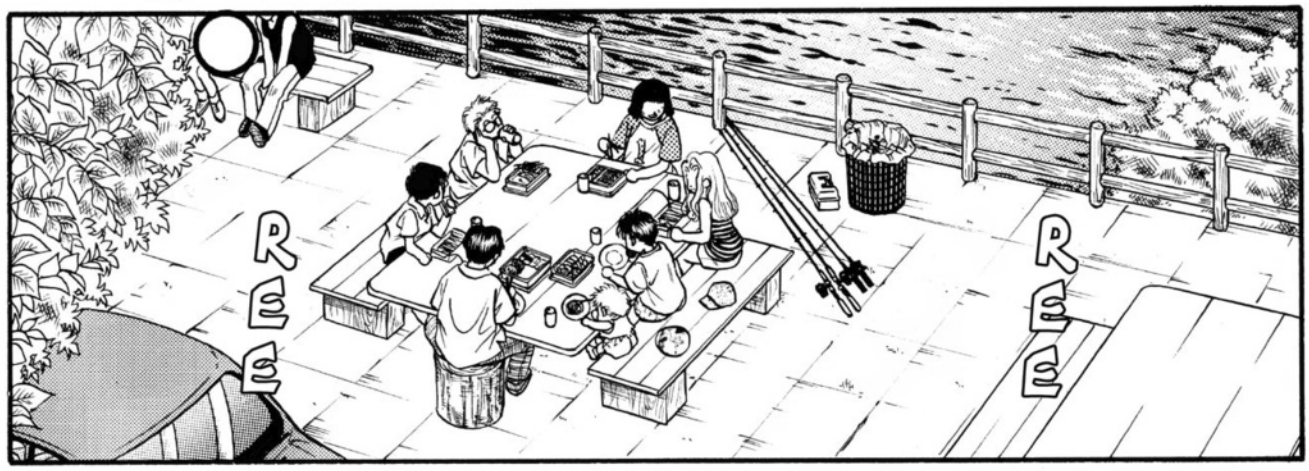
No idea what they're saying.

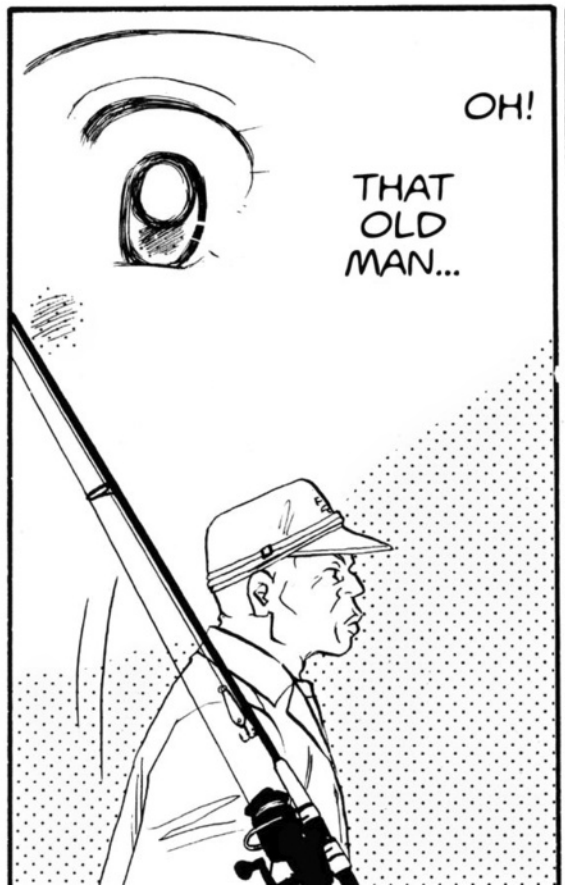




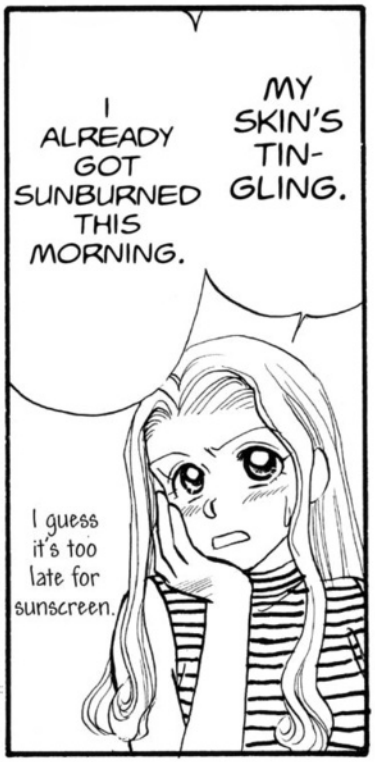

GUYS! WE'RE HUNGRY! LET'S HAVE LUNCH!
OKAY! OKAY!

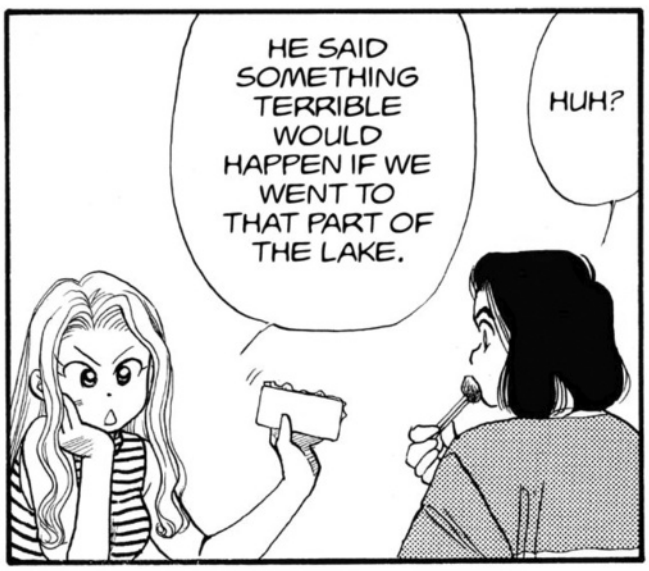
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS GO AFTER THE CHIEF?
I DUNNO. MAYBE WE WERE ENEMIES IN A PAST LIFE.
Scary!
KLIK
KLIK

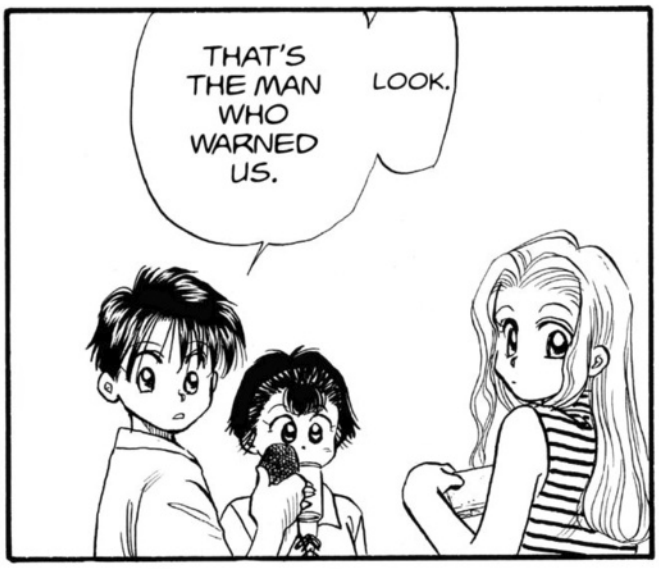

REE
REE


OH!
THAT OLD MAN...

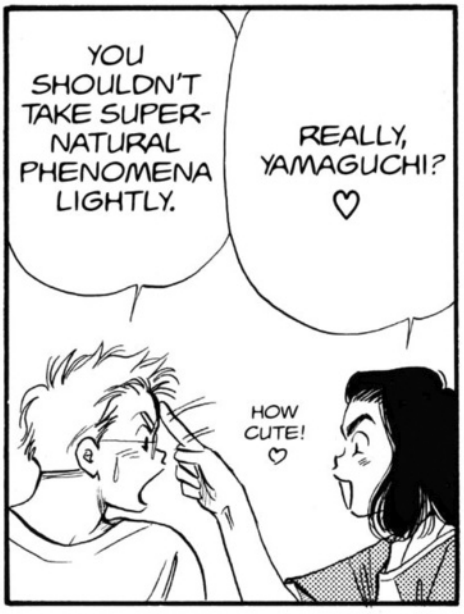
NONE OF US HAS CAUGHT ANYTHING YET.
!!
FISHING TACKLE


MY SKIN'S TIN-GLING.
I ALREADY GOT SUNBURNED THIS MORNING.
I guess it's too late for sunscreen.


HE SAID SOMETHING TERRIBLE WOULD HAPPEN IF WE WENT TO THAT PART OF THE LAKE.
HUH?


THAT'S THE MAN WHO WARNED US.
LOOK.

SOMEBODY GO ASK THE OLD MAN WHAT COULD HAPPEN!
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY SCARED, HUH?
BRR
BRR


YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA LIGHTLY.
REALLY, YAMAGUCHI? ♡
HOW CUTE! ♡

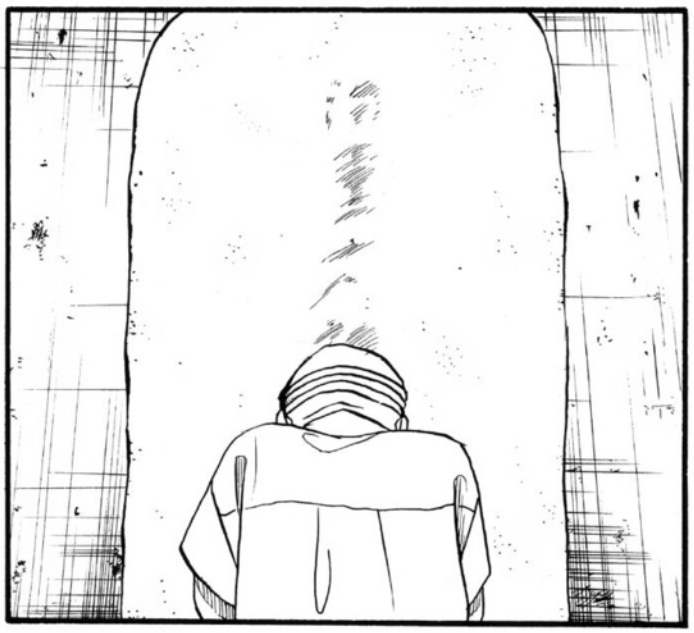
I'M MORE AFRAID OF GHOSTS THAN ANYTHING.
OH, THAT SOUNDS SCARY.

PRAYING?
HERE

THE OLD MAN...
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, TAKUYA?
...IS PRAYING OVER THERE.
OH.

...
YACK
YACK

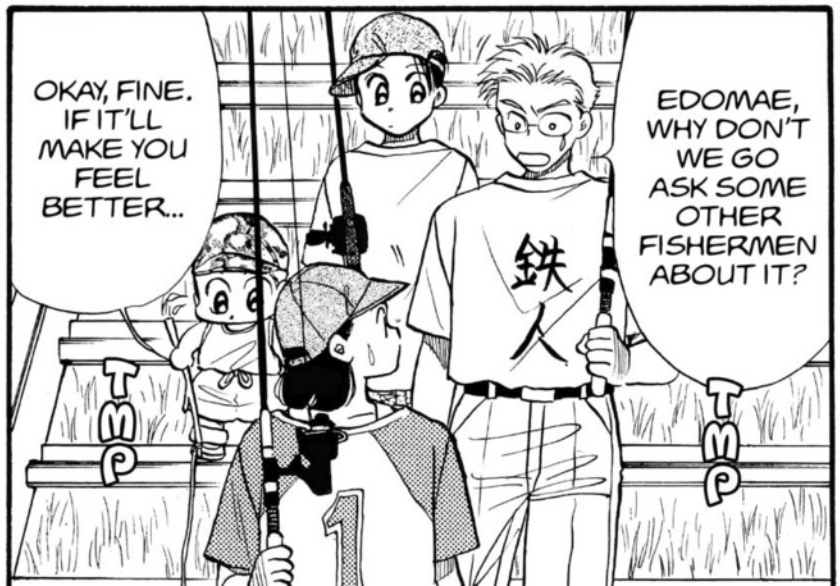
AAAH
WAAH!! IT'S PROBABLY A MEMORIAL FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN THIS LAKE!
CALM DOWN, YAMA-GUCHI!
鉄人



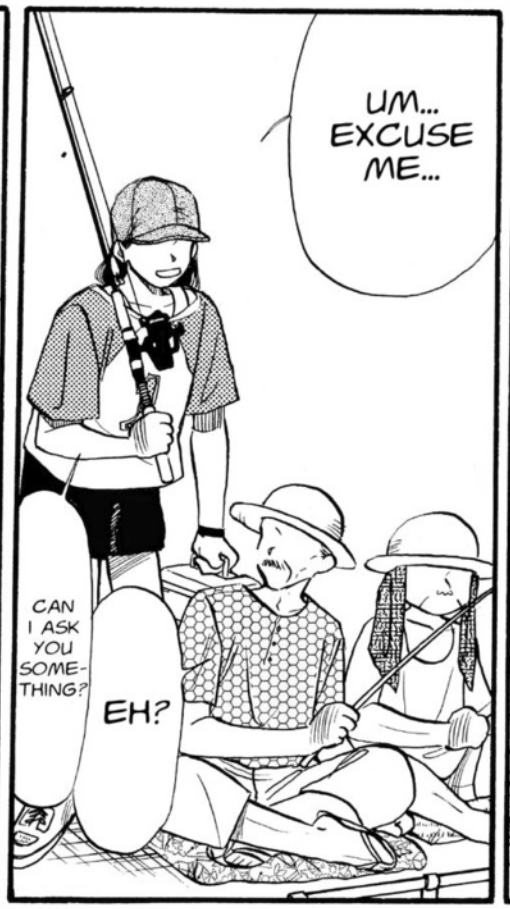
HE'S PRAYING IN FRONT OF THAT MONUMENT.

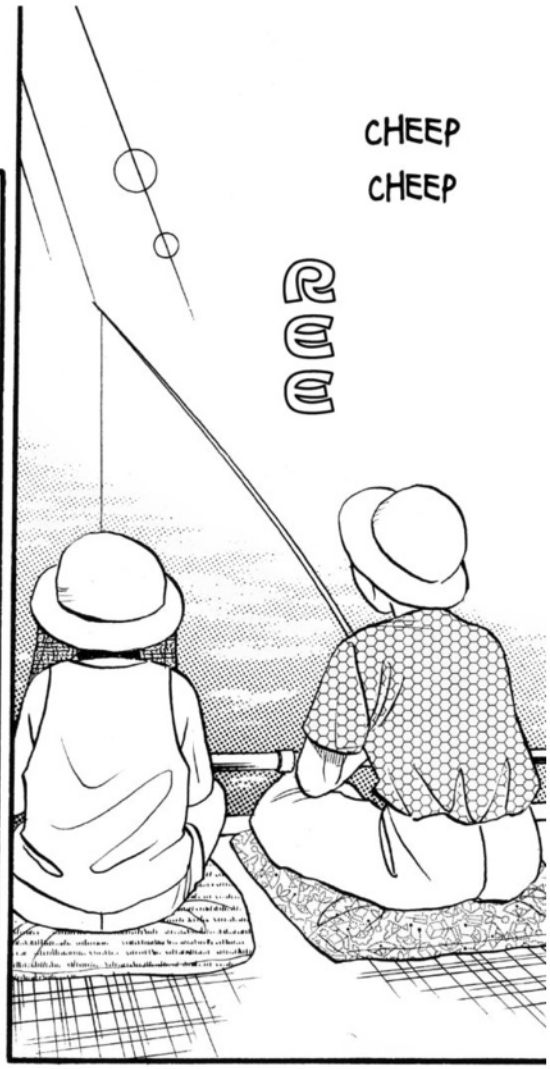
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BREAK. WILL YOU KEEP AN EYE ON TAKUYA AND MINORU FOR ME, EDOMAE?
WHO ELSE?
I'LL GO!
I'LL STAY HERE.
I GO TOO.
1

LET'S FORGET THIS MUMBO-JUMBO AND DO SOME FISHING!
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
KUNZ
1


OKAY, FINE. IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER...
EDOMAE, WHY DON'T WE GO ASK SOME OTHER FISHERMEN ABOUT IT?
TMP
TMP
鉄人
1

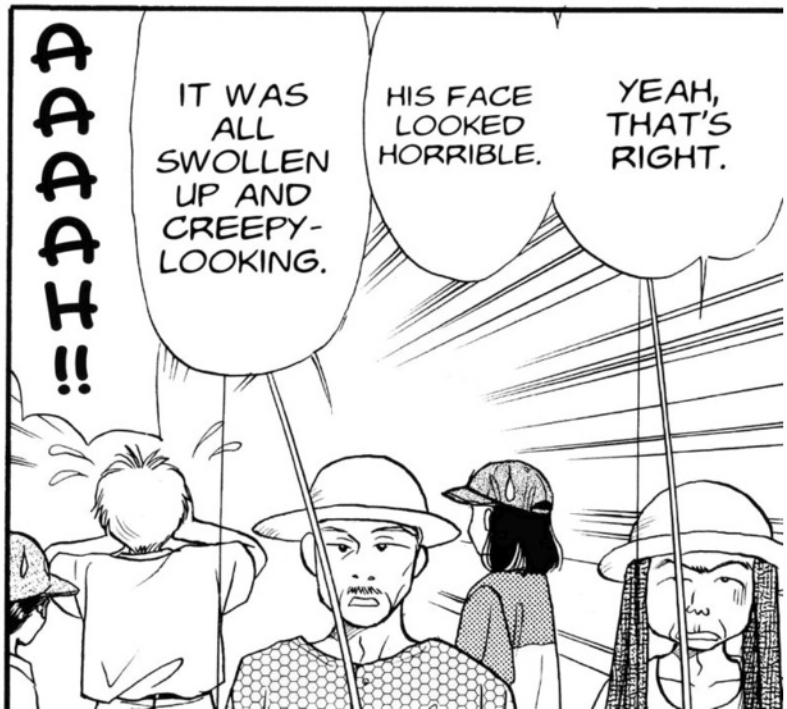
HAS ANYONE EVER DIED IN THIS LAKE?


UM... EXCUSE ME...
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
EH?

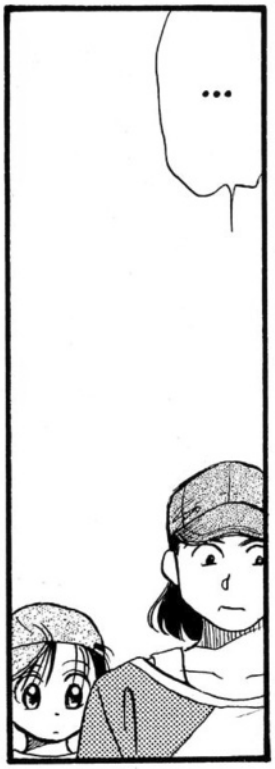

CHEEP CHEEP
REE

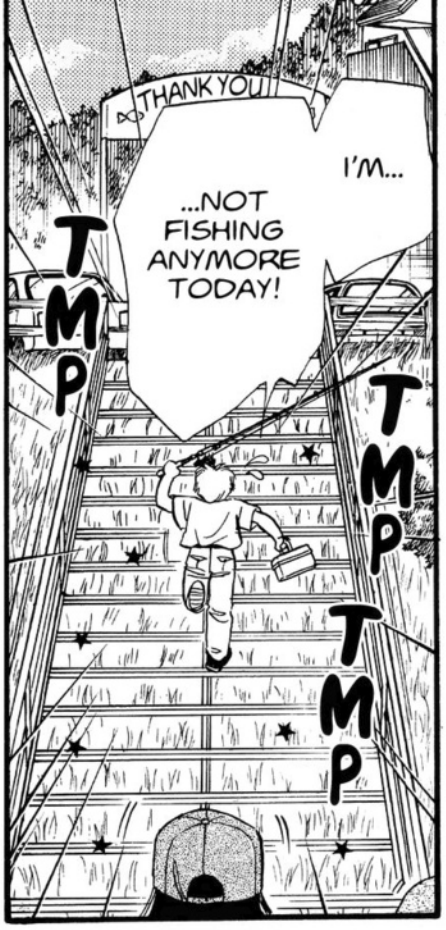
DROWNED BODIES GET SWOLLEN AND BLOATED BECAUSE THEY ABSORB WATER!
YOU HEAR THAT, EDOMAE?
THE GHOST OF THIS SADA GUY IS STILL HERE IN THIS LAKE!

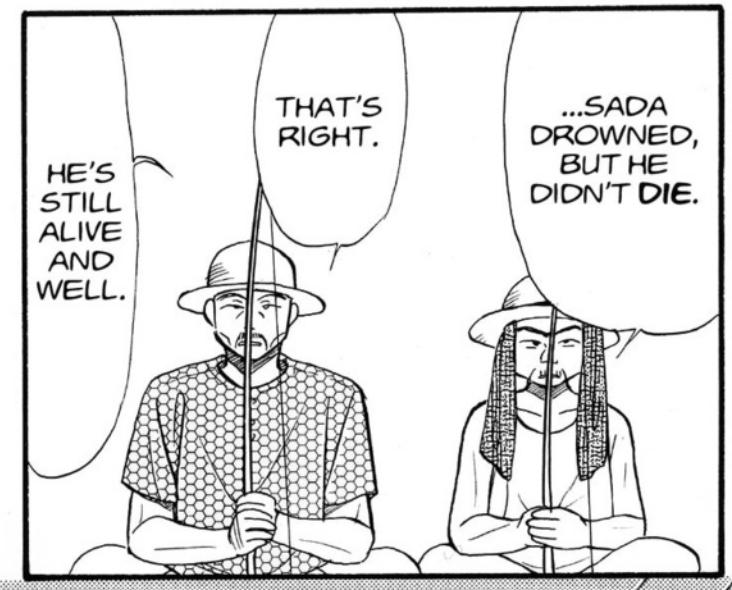
SAY, DIDN'T SADA DROWN HERE 60 YEARS AGO?
WHAT? YOU MEAN DROWNED?

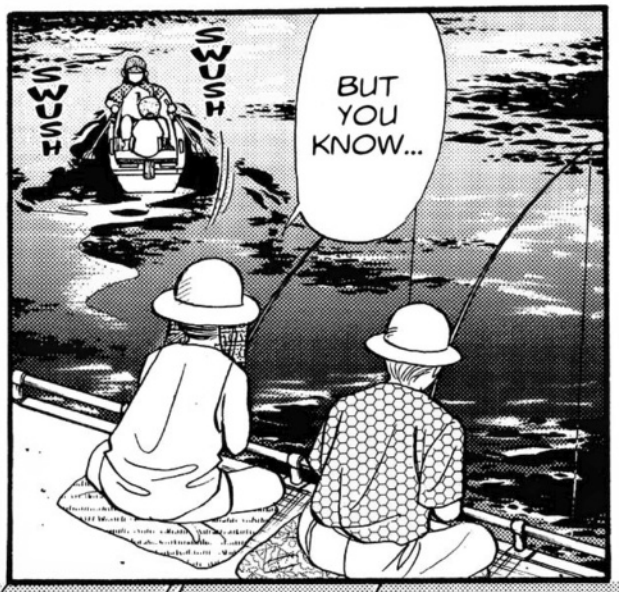

AAAAH!!
IT WAS ALL SWOLLEN UP AND CREEPY-LOOKING.
HIS FACE LOOKED HORRIBLE.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

SHALL WE GO WITHOUT HIM?
YEAH.
BOW
OH.
MINORU


...


THANK YOU
I'M...
...NOT FISHING ANYMORE TODAY!
TMP
TMP
TMP

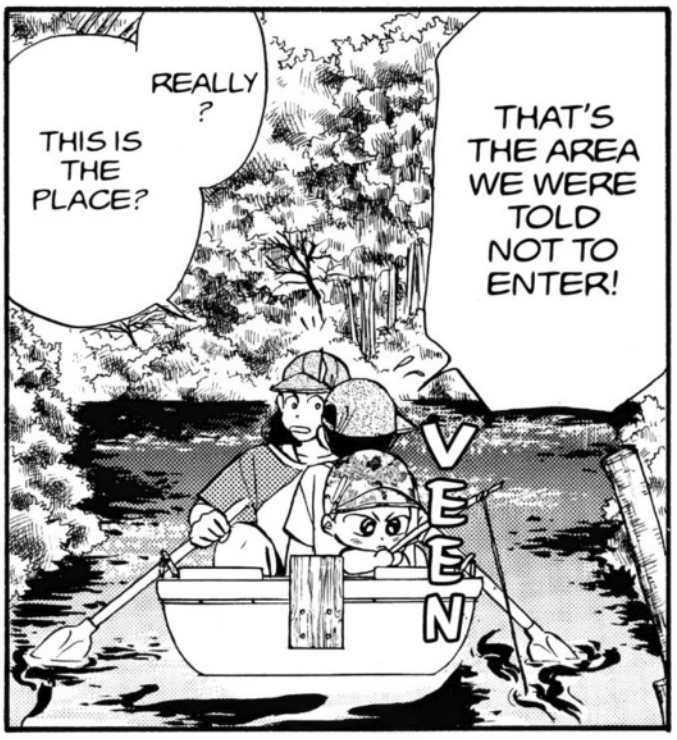

HE'S STILL ALIVE AND WELL.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...SADA DROWNED, BUT HE DIDN'T DIE.


SWUSH
SWUSH
BUT YOU KNOW...

HUH?
OH!
MR. EDOMAE!
REEE
REEE

POOP.
BUT...
WHAT?

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING ANYWAY.

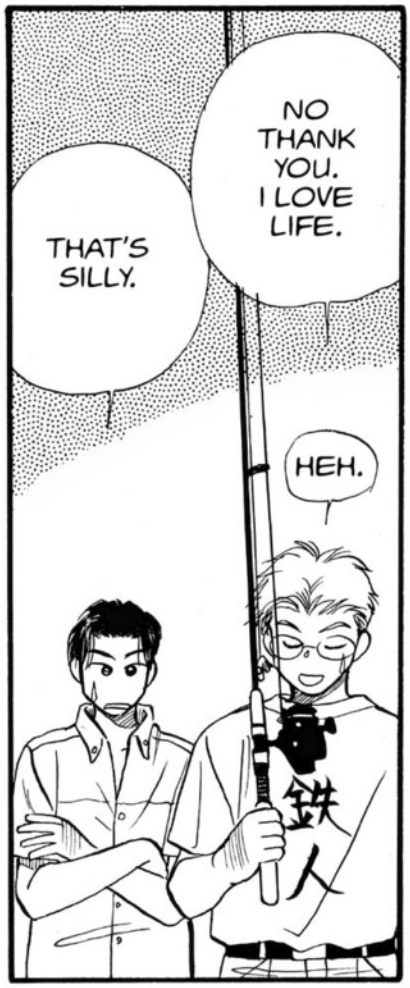

THIS IS THE PLACE?
REALLY ?
THAT'S THE AREA WE WERE TOLD NOT TO ENTER!
VEEN

CAN'T HE WAIT UNTIL WE GET BACK?
WHAT'LL WE DO, MR. EDOMAE?
POOP !!

I GOTTA POOP.

I'LL GO ASHORE THERE AND HE CAN DO IT IN THE BUSHES!
OKAY!
I DON'T THINK SO.
Sorry.
UNH!

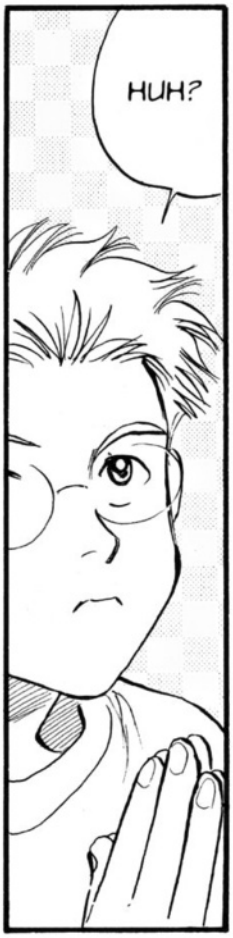
RIGHT NOW, MINORU?


NO THANK YOU. I LOVE LIFE.
THAT'S SILLY.
HEH.
鉄人

AREN'T YOU GOING TO FISH ANYMORE, YAMAGUCHI?

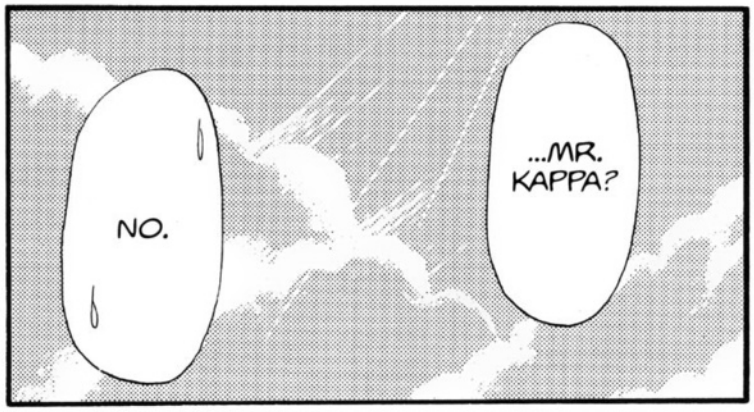
NO, MR. EDOMAE! WE CAN'T GO THERE!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
SPLASH
SPLASH

HEY, CHIEF ...
...CAN YOU READ THIS WORD?
HUH?

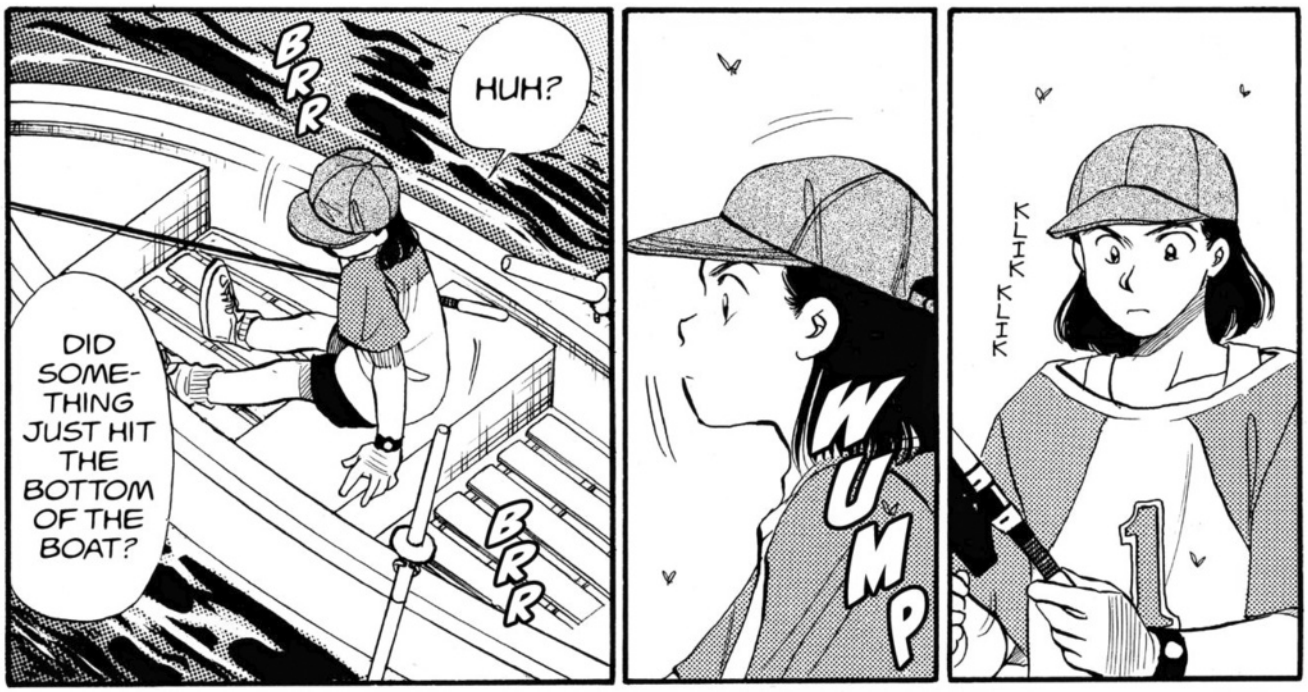

HUH?

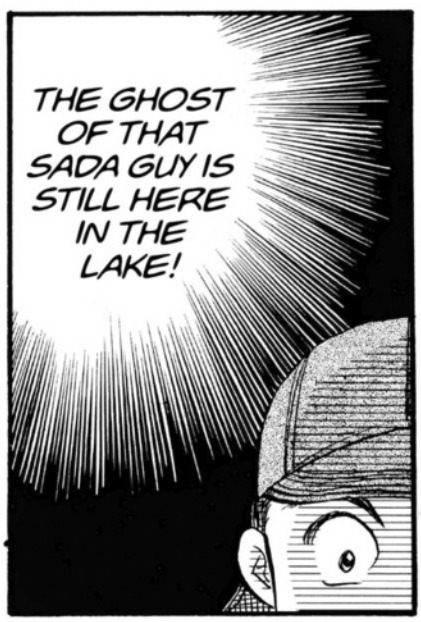
I'LL PRAY HARD SO THE GHOST WON'T CURSE ME.
SWUMP
...

IT SAYS ...



*THE GREAT AND GRACIOUS GOD KAPPA.


BRR
HUH?
DID SOMETHING JUST HIT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT?
BRR
WUMP
KLIK KLIK


THE GHOST OF THAT SADA GUY IS STILL HERE IN THE LAKE!

WHAT WAS THAT?
THOSE LOOK LIKE HUMAN FEET!

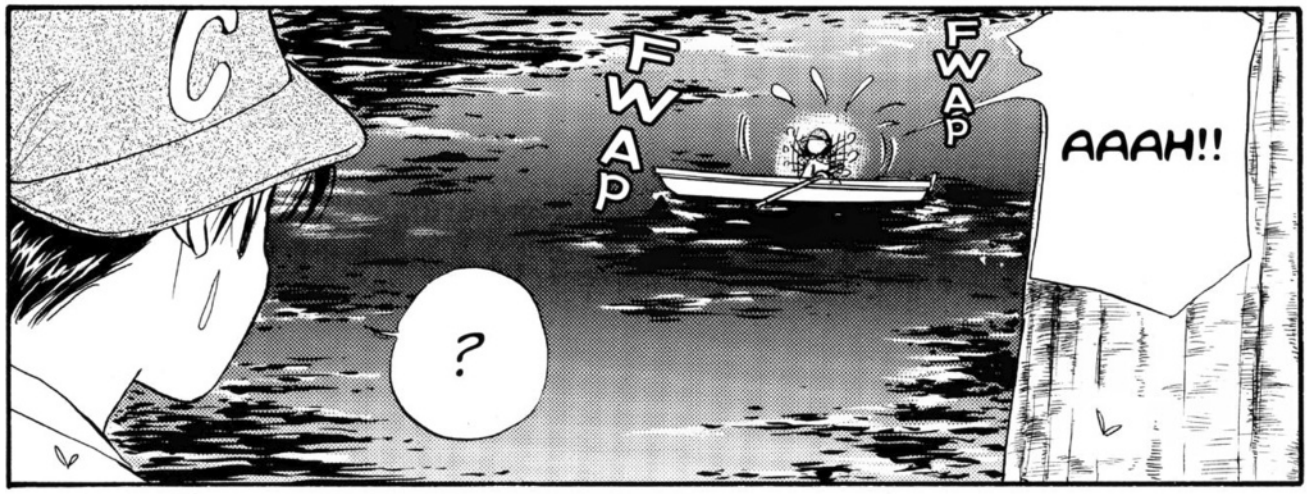
WHAP
SHIVER
NOT COOL.

DOOM
HEY!

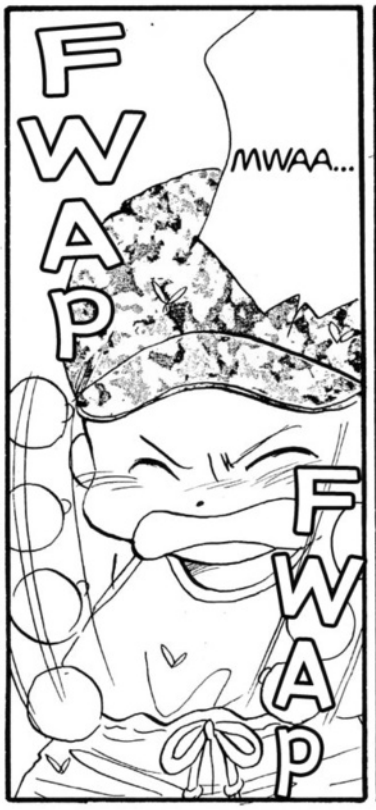
BZZZZ
BZZZZ

OW!
SWAK

BZZ
ZING


FWAP
FWAP
AAAH!!
?

SWIP
AH!!
?!

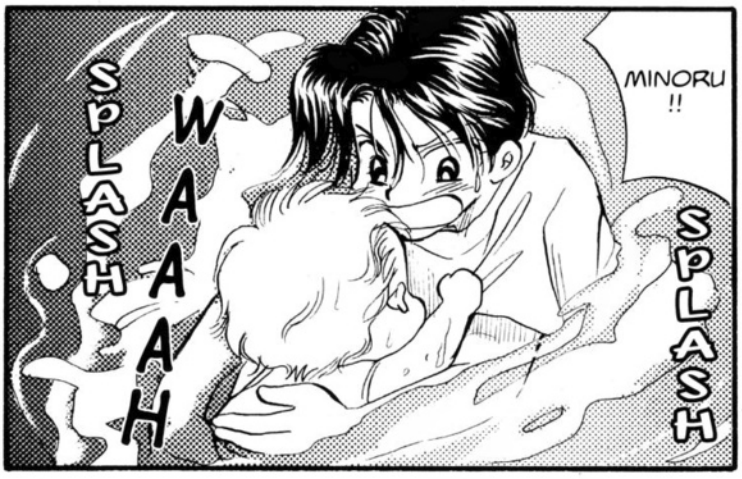

FWAP
MWAA...
FWAP

WHAT'S HE DOING THERE?
MYU?
BZZZ

PLOOSH
MINORU!
TMP

HUH?
WHAT THE HECK?
WAAAH

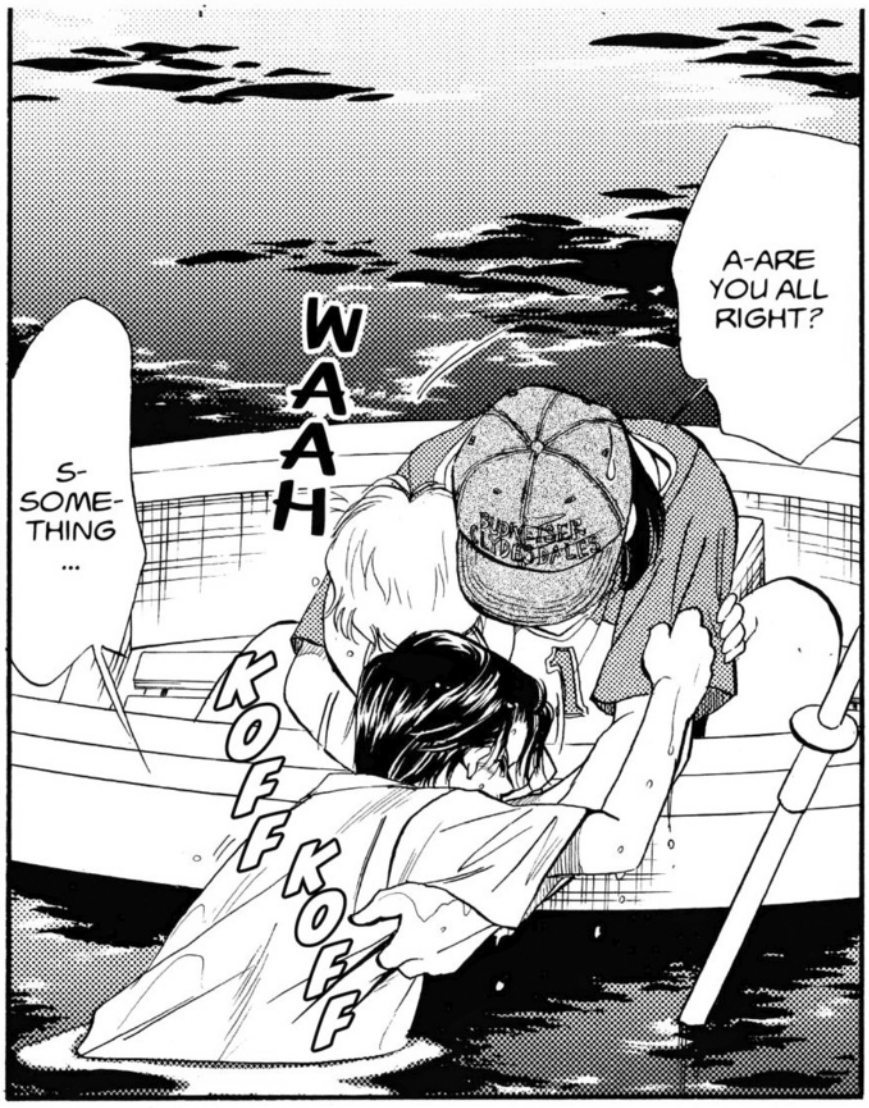
GASP
SPLASH


MINORU !!
SPLASH
WAAAH
SPLASH

UNH!
HIS CLOTHES ARE...
...WATER-LOGGED!
MR. EDOMAE!!
SWUP SWUP
BLUB
WHAA

?!
SSSSH
TAKUYA!!
MINORU!!
PLOOSH

WHAT?
...PUSHED US...
...OUT OF THE WATER.
KOFF
KOFF

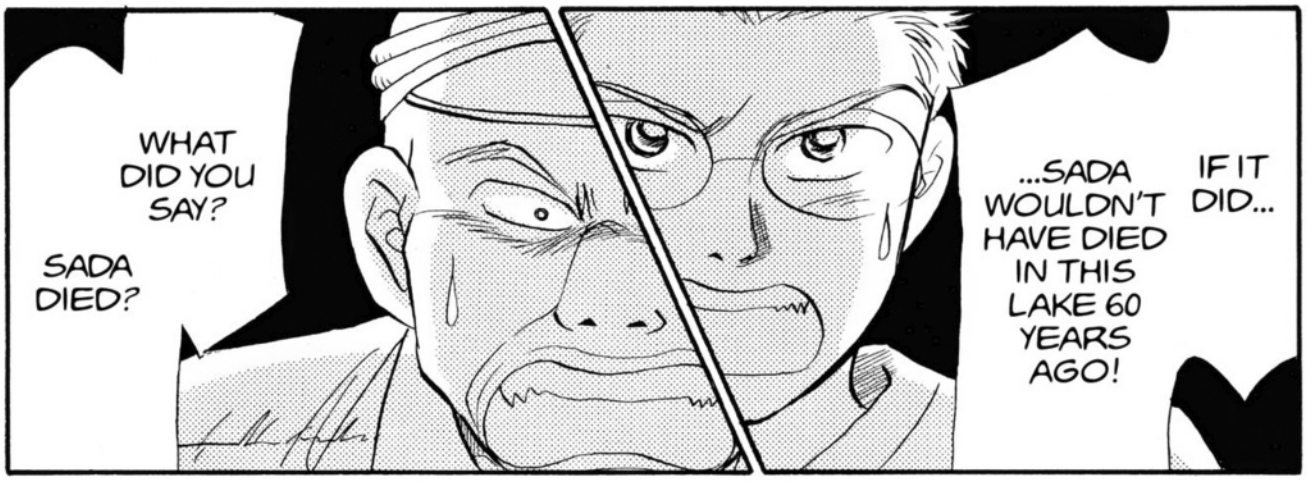

A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WAAH
S-SOME-THING ...
KOFF
KOFF

THE GREAT KAPPA IS GUARDING THIS LAKE.
REE
REE

SADA!
WHAT?
GACK
GACK

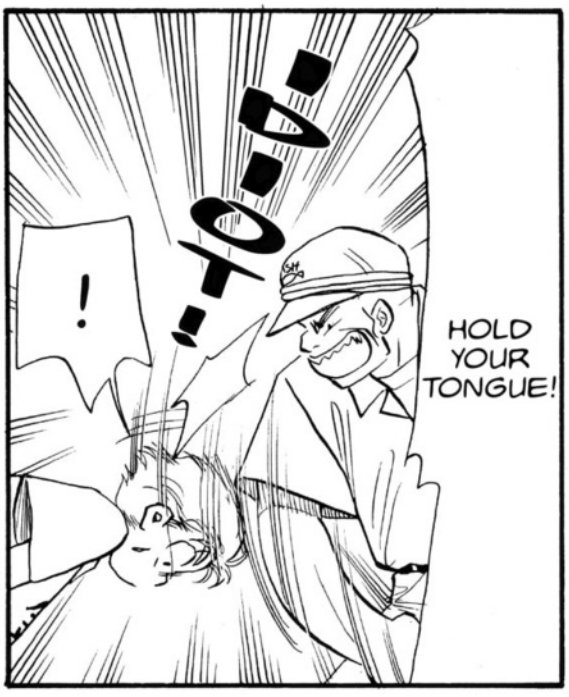
WHAT? DON'T BLASPHEME! OF COURSE THE KAPPA EXISTS!
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT EXISTS? I DON'T BELIEVE IN IT!

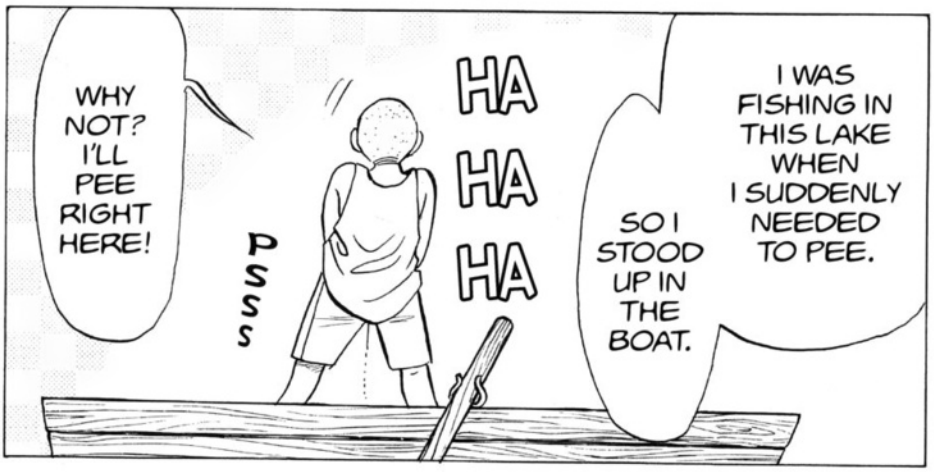
THE GREAT KAPPA?
THAT'S A GOOD ATTITUDE. YOU'RE TAKING THE TIME TO PRAY TO THE KAPPA...
...THOUGH YOU CAME TO FISH.


WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SADA DIED?
...SADA WOULDN'T HAVE DIED IN THIS LAKE 60 YEARS AGO!
IF IT DID...

OF COURSE I AM!
I'M NOT DEAD!
BUT YOU'RE WALKING AROUND.

HEH?
I'M SADA!


!
HOLD YOUR TONGUE!

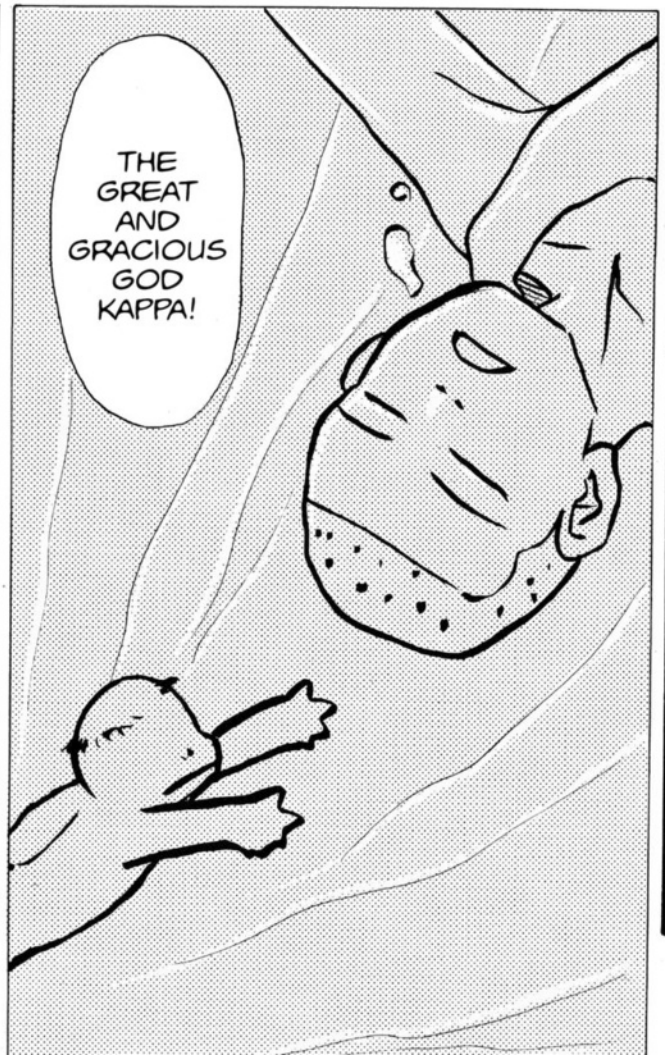

I WAS FISHING IN THIS LAKE WHEN I SUDDENLY NEEDED TO PEE.
SO I STOOD UP IN THE BOAT.
HA HA HA
PSSS
WHY NOT? I'LL PEE RIGHT HERE!

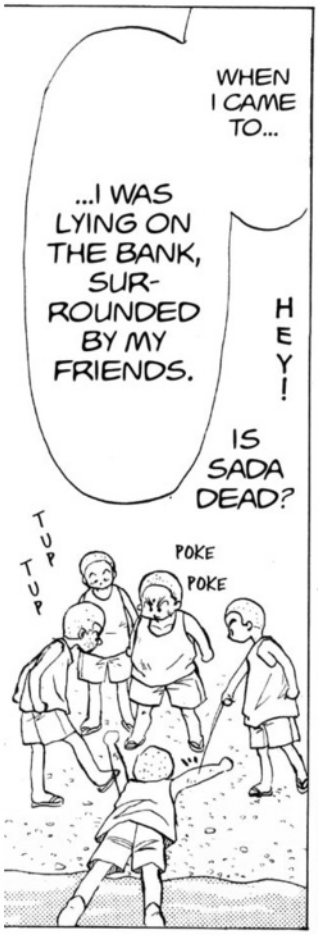
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY.
I WAS A CUTE LITTLE 10-YEAR-OLD BOY THAT SUMMER.

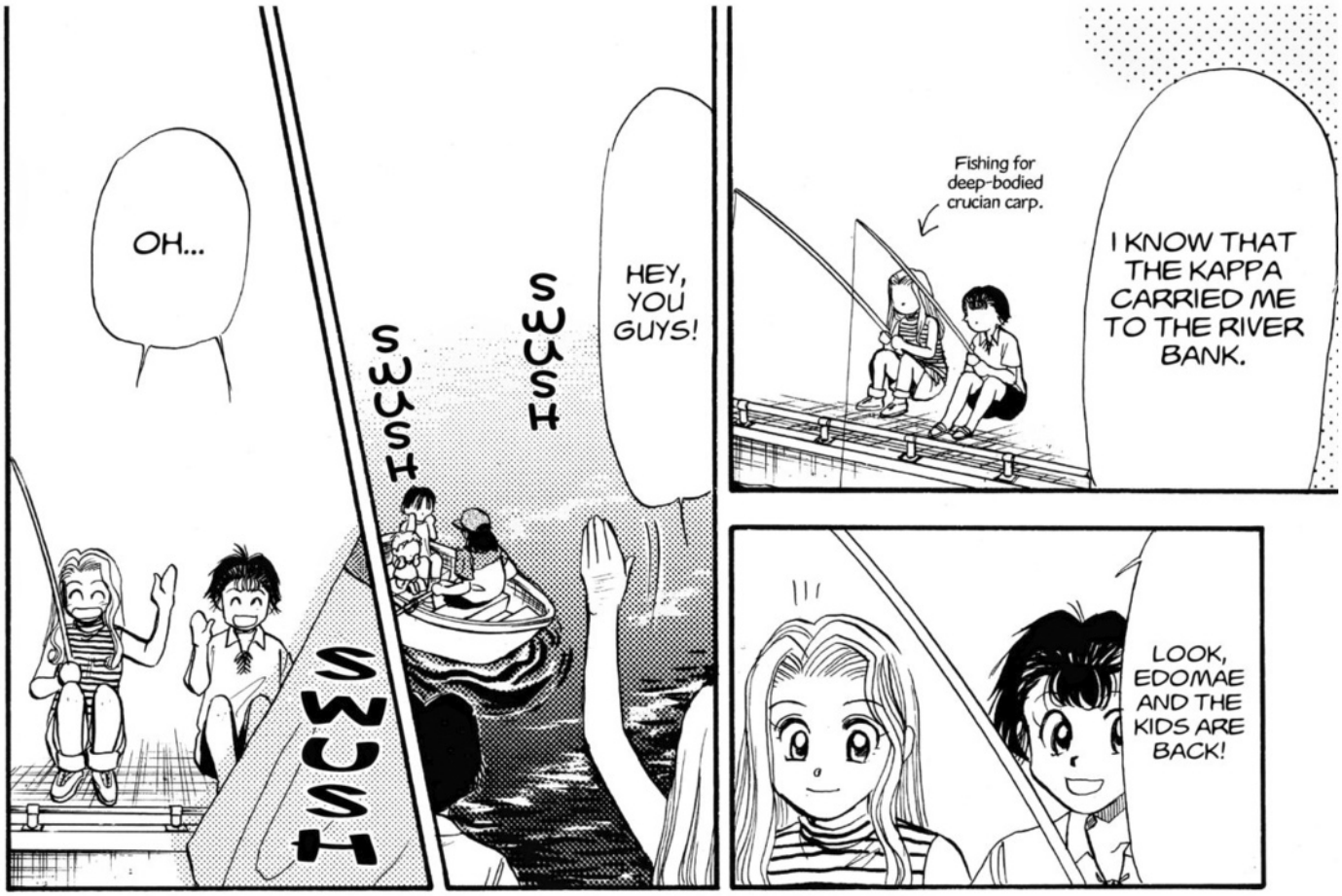
BUT I WAS ATTACKED BY A SWARM OF MOSQUITOES.
BZZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
AAAAH!!

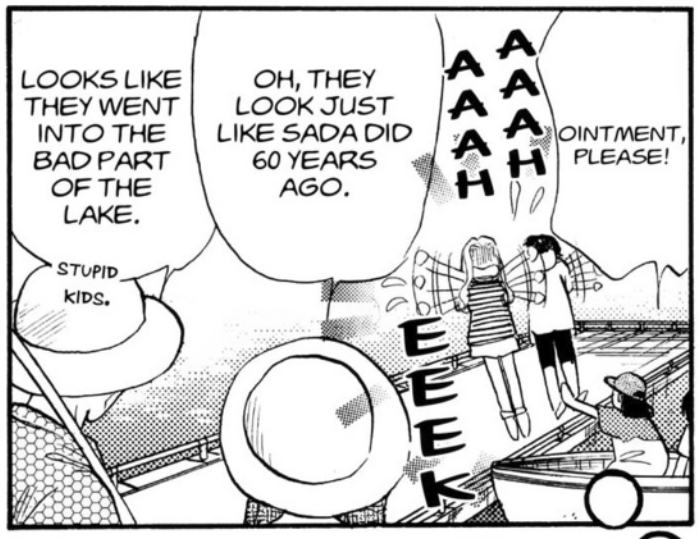
AT THAT MOMENT I FELL INTO THE WATER...
...AND HIT MY HEAD ON THE SIDE OF THE BOAT.
WHAK

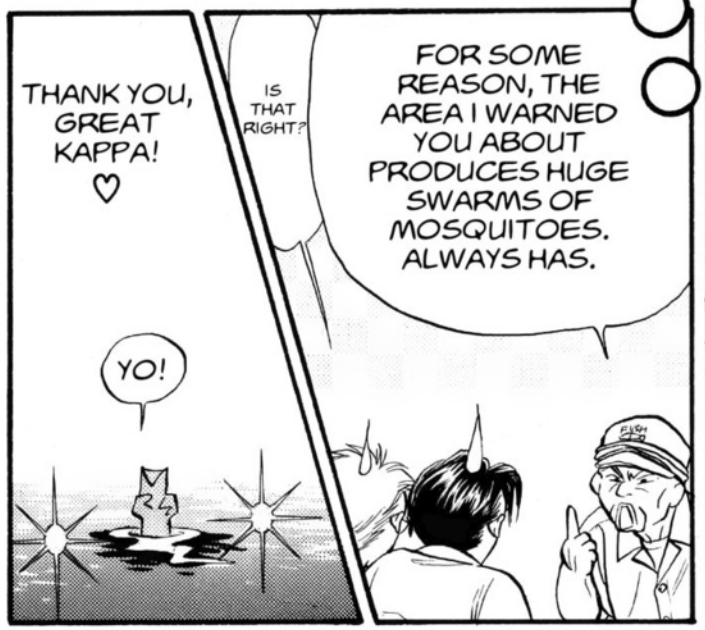
JUST AS I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...
...I SAW IT.
SAW WHAT?


THE GREAT AND GRACIOUS GOD KAPPA!


WHEN I CAME TO...
...I WAS LYING ON THE BANK, SURROUNDED BY MY FRIENDS.
HEY! IS SADA DEAD?
TUP TUP
POKE POKE







Chapter 74 / The End